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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 171 | THURSDAY JUNE 19, 2008 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you like the final design chosen for the CNMI commemorative quarter?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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Levee Breaks
The rising Mississippi River broke through a levee, forcing authorities to rescue about six people.

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A car bomb ripped through a commercial street in Baghdad, killing at least 51.

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The American Film Institute's top-10 lists of the finest flicks in 10 genres.

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CUC forum draws irate public

Some 200 people vent frustrations with CUC

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An estimated 200 people showed up during Tuesday night's public forum at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe where they vented their frustrations with CUC, offered solutions, and called for its privatization.

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WHAT'S NEXT
- Community forum in Kagman
- Peaceful rally on Capital Hill

CANDLE POWER
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Flame Convenience Store clerk Baby assists a costumer using candlelight during a blackout in San Antonio Tuesday night. Households and small businesses, the largest consumers of electricity, are suffering from power outages lasting more than two hours or occurring twice daily in some villages.

Divers eyeing underwater historical trail

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Scuba divers and historic preservation officials on Saipan are considering a plan to establish an underwater historical trail in the island's lagoon, a move that could bolster the local tourism market.

The lagoon on Saipan's western coast

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Barry Wonenburg at his studio.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Wonenberg to represent NMI in China sculpture symposium

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

Barry Wonenburg, art instructor at the Northern Marianas College, has been invited to the represent the CNMI in the 9th International Sculpture Symposium in China, which will run from July 26 to Sept. 5.

Wonenburg has been selected as one of the 31 sculptors worldwide who will take part in the prestigious symposium and his sculpture will be put on display at the Changchun World Sculpture Park in Changchun, China, considered the largest sculpture park in the world.

See WONENBERG on Page 4

Local

CLEANUP JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Youth volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, together with adviser Conner Incorporated's Casey C. Conner, gather for a photo inside the Dr. Jose T. Villagomez Center for Public Health and Dialysis during their cleanup yesterday. The activity was part of the group's community service project to eliminate dust inside the rooms and corridors of the new dialysis center in preparation for its opening.

House approves discounts on power bills

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives passed a bill granting customer discounts on power billings.

The bill would require the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to waive a portion of the fuel component of power rates. The discount will amount to 30 percent of the fuel rate for residential customers, and 10 percent for commercial customers.

The bill would also repeal a law that allows the Public Utilities Commission to make decisions even if it has only one member.

The "electric fuel charge credit" will apply retroactively to May 3, 2008, when CUC's doubled rates went into effect. It will continue until the $9 million appropriated by the Legislature is exhausted. It is not clear how long the subsidy fund will last, since fuel costs fluctuate rapidly. But the Legislature expects the fund to last through December 2008.

It is also not clear how the subsidy will be applied. The initial proposal was for CUC to add a line item for "fuel charge credit" in the billing. But the May billings have already been sent out to the customers. CUC executive director Antonio Muna has said the discount would likely be applied when the customer comes in to pay at CUC.

The subsidy is designed to give the customers some relief from the skyrocketing cost of power.

For residential customers, electric rates are now at 40.3 cents per kWh for the first 500 kWh—the highest ever rate to be charged by CUC. The rate increases with usage, going up to a maximum 51.4 cents per kWh for consumption over 2,000 kWh.

Businesses and government offices are charged even more. The commercial rate is 47.3 cents per kWh, and the government rate is 47.8 cents per kWh. For "non-conforming load," the June rate is 60.9 cents per kWh.

The law, which allowed for the rate increase last month, provided some $9 million for CUC's fuel expenses. The idea was for CUC to pass on the subsidy to the customers. But because of ambiguity in the law, the subsidy was not factored into the computation of the new power rates.

Different ways explored to resolve legal question on delegate election

Lawmakers are trying various ways to solve the legal question as to whether initiatives could be placed on the ballot this November.

The House of Representatives yesterday passed a bill to "localize" the federally mandated election for the Northern Marianas' delegate to the U.S. Congress. The bill would also expand the definition of "regular general election" to include delegate elections, which will be held for the first time on Nov. 4 and every two years thereafter.

The Constitution requires that initiatives to amend the Constitution or a general law be placed on the ballot at a regular general election. The current definition of a "regular general election" only includes elections held in odd-numbered years on the first Saturday of November.

A separate resolution has been introduced in the Lower House to call a special election on Nov. 4 to ratify legislative and popular initiatives.

Rep. Heinz Hofschneider sponsored the resolution. He is undertaking two initiatives to amend the Constitution. One is to downsize the Legislature and the other is to amend the Commonwealth's land alienation law.

Another legislative initiative passed by the previous Legislature is awaiting ratification. The initiative proposes to limit elected board members to two four-year terms. It would also increase the education system's guaranteed budget from 15 percent to 25 percent of the general revenues of the Commonwealth.

In addition, there is a citizen-initiated proposal to re-apply the Open Government Act to the Legislature. Proponents of the popular initiative are hoping to get it voted on this election.

The House-passed delegate election bill would allow the governor to reprogram $60,000 from the budget of the soon-to-be-defunct Office of the Resident Representative to fund the election. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

Soaring gas prices spur interest in motorbikes

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Skyrocketing gas prices in the Commonwealth are prompting many residents to trade-in four wheels for two, with one of the island's largest vehicle dealers and some rental offices reporting a rise in consumer interest in motorcycles and scooters.

Gas prices rose 18 cents to $4.80 per gallon on Saipan last week – far above the national average of roughly $4 -- due to the climbing global cost of crude oil, an increase that has placed a major strain on local drivers.

Yet rather than suffer the added pinch at the pump, it appears many locals are choosing to adapt.

Joeten Motors, the primary dealer of Yamaha motorcycles on Saipan, is seeing many customers looking to buy motorcycles in light of gas prices.

"We've definitely had more interest in our bikes," said Matthew Deets, general manager of Joeten.

Motorcycles in general perform better when it comes to gas mileage than cars, Deets said, noting that some get 50 to 60 miles per gallon. That's even better than many gas-efficient hybrid cars, which tend to get between 30 and 50 miles per gallon.

Better mileage means fewer fill-ups and less of a drain on drivers' finances in the long run.

The most popular models among gas-conscious buyers, Deets added, are the Yamaha TW 200, an off-road bike with fat tires fit for cruising Saipan's rugged terrain that can also be driven legally on city streets. In addition, the slightly more powerful TW 225 is seeing increased consumer interest, he added.

Given the low volume of sales that Joeten sees generally, Deets said it is hard to quantify the increase in sales for the moment, but the transition among consumers toward driving motorcycles is part of a larger trend, with many prospective buyers seeking the most fuel-efficient vehicles available.

"We see people on a daily basis trying to trade in larger cars for smaller cars," Deets said, adding that roughly 80 percent of his dealership's inventory is now made up of gas thrifty four-cylinder vehicles.

Responding to this, Deets is preparing to market the new Honda Civic hybrid model at Joeten in the near future. The dealership already sells the Ford Escape hybrid, he added.

Meanwhile, two of the island's scooter rental agencies are also reporting a jump in business related to gas prices. At the Tico Corporation's rental stand on Beach Road, staff member Choi Yung said gas prices have brought in many customers seeking month-long rentals on scooters. Across the street, Sang Jee Rent A Car agent Esther Sacramento reported much the same.

"Mostly, local people have come in because they've raised the gas prices very high," she said, adding that more and more customers are looking to rent smaller cars.

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NMI public schools make full use of TSL's $250K donation

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

Majority of schools in the Public School System have received and are now making the most of their share in the $250,000 donation that Tan Holdings Corp. chair Dr. Tan Siu Lin made last November during the corporation's 35th anniversary celebration.

The donation was intended to benefit pubic schools of the CNMI, with the money to be divided among the schools according to their enrollment numbers.

Marianas High School, which received $28,800 of the donation, purchased $1,000 worth of new books for the English Department, used $6,000 to repair the air-conditioning equipment at the gymnasium, and $16,000 for library upgrades such as library furniture and new reference books.

Vice principal Jessica Barcinas said the school had not been able to update its library for the longest time so the generous donation was a timely one.

Hopwood Junior High School, which also received $28,800 from the donation, used its share to purchase eight new projectors and for the extension of the school cafeteria.

DanDan Elementary School also made full use of its $8,800 share, with part of the money going to the construction of a room for maintenance supplies.

DES principal Jonas M. Barcinas said that for the last eight years, the school never had a separate room for its maintenance supplies. All maintenance supplies were housed in the electrical room, which posed a safety hazard should something go wrong inside.

Barcinas said the school had also been cited by federal education officials for the absence of a maintenance room.

"I have been begging and begging for funds from everywhere and I could never get it. I was always told there were just no funds. But thanks to the donation from Tan Holdings, I was finally able to get that done," Barcinas said.

DES also reconstructed their school playground. The old one had a history of students falling off and getting hurt due to its old and rusty condition.

Barcinas said he also used $1,700 to buy a new PE equipment to help promote the school's Physical Fitness Program.

"If it wasn't for that funding, I'd be lost. I just want to make sure that the campus is safe and fun for the children and anyone who visits it," Barcinas said.

Tinian Elementary School received its $8,800 share, which it used to purchase new library books and other school essentials that would help enhance academic learning among its students.

TES principal Julian U. Hofschneider said the donation helped the school tremendously "especially now with this economic times, we really appreciate all the help and anybody else. We really appreciate the contribution because we really do need it."

He added that, "there are so many things going on and so many expectations. With this kind of help, it will help us reach our goals, whether they be wellness policy goals or our reading goals."

San Vicente Elementary School had recently announced that it would use its $20,800 share to help with the reconstruction of the Kindergarten classrooms that are in dilapidated condition.

So far, 21 public schools in the CNMI have received their share of the TSL education donation. Four schools have yet to contact the Tan Holding's Corp. for their share.

With the help of PSS officials and his business team on Saipan, Tan hopes that they will find ways to use the money wisely to help all students of the Commonwealth according to the needs of each student.

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NMC fails to get $3M funding request

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College's funding request for construction projects has failed to muster support from the administration and the reviewing legislative committee.

The House of Representatives' Ways and Means Committee said the proposed $3-million earmark for NMC is not feasible, as the funds have been reserved for other important projects. The committee urged the House to shelve the appropriation bill.

The committee's decision is a setback for NMC's efforts toward getting its accreditation reaffirmed. One of the chief concerns raised by the college's accrediting commission was the poor condition of NMC's physical structures.

House Bill 16-28 would re-appropriate $3 million from funds that had earlier been committed to the closure of the Puerto Rico dump, the Kalabera Cave development, and the Lake Susupe boardwalk trail. The funds would be used to pay for NMC's building improvements and a master plan for a new NMC campus.

The committee came up with the decision after consulting Virginia Villagomez, who administers the Commonwealth's capital improvement projects. Villagomez has said the projects from which the bill proposes to take the money "are vital to the economy and the environment and must be retained."

According to Villagomez, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency could impose a $32,000 daily fine if the CNMI government fails to comply with the funding mandates and established timeline for the closure of the Puerto Rico dump. She also said the design for the closure is complete, and construction will begin soon.

The Kalabera Cave project and the Lake Susupe boardwalk trail are key to efforts to enhance Saipan as a tourist destination.

The Kalabera Cave project includes the installation of colorful lights, staircases, and metal walkways. It is designed "to enhance the existing conditions by providing a trail for visitors in search of history and adventure and a first-hand appreciation of the natural scenic view," Villagomez said.

The CNMI government also plans to construct a one-kilometer boardwalk across portions of wetlands and along the shoreline of Lake Susupe as an added destination enhancement. "The outcome of this project will contribute to educating the public on the values of wetlands and wildlife while also providing revenue-generating attractions for tourists," Villagomez said.

She said the administration is willing to help NMC comply with the recommendations of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, but the college should develop an updated list of its priorities, so funding can be properly identified for critical projects. She noted that some projects in NMC's list have already been funded. One example is a technology upgrade project for which the U.S. Office of Insular Affairs has already issued a grant of $417,000 in March 2008.

CUC

From Page 1

A mixture of U.S. mainlanders, locals, and some alien workers filled the center during the three-hour forum that ended at 9pm. It was organized by Rep. Tina Sablan and *MP Magazine* publisher Ed Propst.

Seen at the forum were Reps. Diego Benavente, Stanley Torres, Ralph Torres, Rosemond Santos, Ed Salas, and Sen. Frica Pangelinan. Salas, Torres and Pangelinan stayed during the entire forum.

"It was a great turnout. People vented their frustrations about CUC, but also offered really common-sense solutions, asked thoughtful and critical questions, and expressed their desire to get organized and demand decisive action from their government," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

She said one of their objectives was to empower the people as ratepayers to be part of the solution to the utilities' crisis. "The community forum was a good first step in the right direction," she added.

Among the five demands endorsed by the participants were a formal legislative oversight on CUC; legislation to privatize CUC but with public hearings and review; and hiring a qualified executive director with experience and credentials to run the power utility.

The other demand was to hold an energy summit, bringing all the leaders of the CNMI and the Department of the Interior to one table to work on an energy plan that includes an aggressive energy conservation strategy and renewable energy initiatives.

The fifth demand was a call for CUC's cooperation on the federal stipulated order to rectify CUC's chronic water and wastewater violations.

At the forum, businessman and Japanese translator Jim Davies expressed his frustration with the daily outages and fished out $2 as startup fund for a class suit against CUC.

A woman who had just arrived from the U.S. mainland underscored the importance of reviewing CUC's entire operational system.

Another U.S. mainlander recalled how he once waited for several hours in line just to pay his electric bill.

A businessman who identified himself only as Craig said his small business has been incurring losses due to the outages. He said it is unreasonable for CUC to raise the power rates when they already know that people and businesses have been reducing power usage.

"I'm all for a class action," the businessman said.

A man who called himself "the old Ed" said CUC's power distribution has to be privatized. He cited Guam's "excellent" utility agency under a private firm.

"You will not see much changes at CUC if it is not privatized," he added.

An Asian businessman who identified himself as Simon said he first visited Saipan many years ago and saw the problems with water supply and power outages. Five years later, he came back to Saipan to live and noticed that the same problems remain.

"I urge Rep. Tina Sablan and the Legislature to file a legislation to build a power plant. We cannot trust the administration!" he said.

At the forum, Propst stressed, among other things, the importance of taking action now to help solve CUC's problems.

When Propst recognized Rep. Stanley Torres for disputing his power billings, the lawmaker received loud applause from the participants.

Propst also underscored the need to make the privatization efforts as transparent as possible.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Hundreds of community members gather inside the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe during a community forum organized by Rep. Tina Sablan and Ed Propst to discuss short-term and long-term solutions to the Commonwealth's power crisis Tuesday night.

Businessman Dave Sablan said a strong message should be sent to the Legislature and Commonwealth leaders that CUC should now be privatized.

"The government should get out of this mess. The private sector can do better," Sablan pointed out.

A local resident who identified himself as Pete said that people must push for CUC's privatization.

"We're frustrated with CUC!" he said.

Columnist Ruth Tighe noted that everybody seems to agree on the need for privatization. She also referred to the call for a new CUC director and a revamp of the agency's collection unit.

Tighe said the multi-million dollars subsidy for the repair of the power engines should be spread out even to businesses because they are also suffering.

After Tighe's statement, Rep. Sablan noted that it seems that the general consensus is to privatize CUC.

"As most of you does, I support privatization—privatization with openness, public hearing and public review," she added.

Chailang Palacios said she agrees with the filing of a class action against CUC but suggested a 50-cent contribution because she, like many others, are poor, drawing laughter from the audience.

Some people said they would dispute their bills to challenge the recent rate increases.

Sablan passed out a sample dispute form, along with a copy of the House legal counsel's opinion that the recent rate increases were illegal.

Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that all agreed that the next immediate step would be a community forum in Kagman as many residents who wanted to be at the center couldn't afford the gas.

She said the other step is to hold a peaceful mass demonstration on Capital Hill to present to Gov. Benigno Fitial and legislators a petition for action on their five demands.

The lawmaker said the demonstrators want to appeal to the elected leaders to come out, listen to the people, and respond to their concerns.

WONENBERG

From Page 1

"I am happy to be given this opportunity. It is gratifying to have my abilities recognized," Wonenberg said in an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Artists from around the world were invited to submit sculpture proposals representing the national and local cultures of their countries. After an extensive review process, 31 sculptors were selected and one of that was Wonenberg, who had submitted three sculpture proposals.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for me and for the CNMI islands as a whole," he said. "I am honored to have been selected to represent our islands and create one of my sculptures for the symposium."

Wonenberg will be flying to China toward the end of July to begin sculpting one of his three proposed designs.

One proposal, called "Totem-Standing Together," is a stainless steel piece that will stand nearly 10 feet high. The other two proposals, called "Leaping Fish at Play" and "Jumping Fish at Play," will be cut in granite and will stand approximately six feet high and over nine feet long.

Wonenberg said that, although the type of stone may change, "nothing is set in stone until it is."

"When I received [the] offer to submit three sculpture proposals to the…committee, I took the opportunity because as an artist, I enjoy creating beautiful pieces. Besides, sculpture is my specialty and this was a chance to indulge my creative vision," he said.

Wonenberg will receive an all-expense-paid trip that includes a round-trip ticket to China, a $2,000 honorarium, hotel accommodations, meals, sightseeing tours and other activities. During his stay there, assistants will be assigned to him to help him build his sculptures as well as provision for all the materials necessary for his work.

The Changchun World Sculpture Park in Changchun, China, currently displays 391 sculptures that were created by 347 sculptors from 172 countries. The sculptures, located within the 92 hectare park, represent different artistic styles from around the world.

The event promotes international cultural exchanges for the aesthetic improvement of the city's urban setting, Changchun City, the capital of Jilin Province of China.

This year the symposium has invited artists from the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Maldives, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Georgia, Sikkim, East Timor, Holy See, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, St. Lucia, Burkina Faso, Equatorial Guinea, Niger, Guinea, Chad, Sierra Leone, Mauritania, Libya, Djibouti, Liberia, Gambia, Somalia, Tunisia, Western Sahara, Nauru, Guam, Tuvalu, Marshall Island, Cayman Island, Ghana, Reunion, Canary Island, and the CNMI.

DIVERS

From Page 1

is an underwater graveyard of World War II relics, many from the battle waged for control of the island. Tanks, pontoon barges, the remains of a Japanese anti-submarine boat and even an aircraft lie on the seafloor and in the surrounding waters, according to those involved in the project.

Underwater archaeologists Jason Burns and Michael Krivor earlier this year catalogued a host of this war era wreckage in a survey, employing specialized sonar and magnetic detection equipment. A draft report on those findings will arrive at the Commonwealth's Historic Preservation Office in the coming weeks, said director Roy Sablan.

Establishing an underwater trail for divers is "the next move" Sablan said, noting the report will help guide that effort. "It will be a good opportunity for tourists," he said.

The trail could serve as a major draw for diving enthusiasts, who would follow local tour operators from wreck to wreck. But before the project can begin, a further survey might be conducted to learn how many more artifacts there are to discover in Saipan's lagoon, according to preservation office staff archaeologist Ronnie Rogers.

"When the west coast of the island was bombed, a lot of equipment got pushed into the lagoon and ended up on the bottom," Rogers said, adding a more thorough survey might occur in the coming months and completion of the trail may take up to a year.

Saipan's underwater history "is a resource from which we can all benefit," he added.

The prospect of an underwater trail would "add to the repertoire of what Saipan's diving sites have to offer," said Mike Tripp, local dive instructor and underwater video producer. "The ability to have something like this in a total package for divers is really something that would have a lot of benefits for the diving businesses here."

Miura's counsel presents expert on Japanese law

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Kazuyoshi Miura's legal counsel has presented to the court the opinion of a Japanese law and criminal procedure expert who said that, based on his research and investigation, Japanese courts are extremely reluctant to take the side of a criminal defendant.

William Bernard Cleary, an American lawyer who is currently a professor at Hiroshima Shudo University's Faculty of Law, said his research show that the rate of "not guilty" judgments in Japan was 2.9 percent in 2007 and was 0.1 percent for 1998, which was the year of the appeal in Miura's case.

In his affidavit, Cleary said the study shows that Japanese courts do a comprehensive investigation concerning all relevant facts and evidence.

Miura's counsel sought Cleary's opinion to clarify whether the issues brought up in the documents recently filed by the Attorney General's Office to oppose modifying the Japanese businessman's bail are essentially the same issues dealt with in the Tokyo High Court judgment of July 1, 1998, regarding Miura's appeal.

Cleary's opinion was among the exhibits in Miura's application for bail that his counsel, Bruce Berline, filed in the Superior Court yesterday.

In an affidavit that the AGO attached to its opposition to Miura's bail modification, Los Angeles Police District detective Rick Jackson stated that Miura approached three people to commit murder prior to the shooting of his wife on Nov. 18, 1981 in L.A.

Jackson said that Miura asked Koji Fukuhara, a sushi chef; Kiyoyuki Mizukami, a former employee of Miura's company; and Richard Molin, an antique shop owner, to kill someone.

But Cleary said that, in his opinion the facts and issues addressed by the Tokyo District and High Court are essentially the same as those presented in Jackson's affidavit.

Moreover, Cleary said, as part of the evidence evaluated by the court was a list of possible co-conspirators, including Fukuhara and Mizukami. Cleary said Fukuhara and Mizukami were mentioned in the document for the purpose of showing that Miura is a dangerous person not worthy of bail.

"However, the Japanese courts examined this evidence, and the High Court was not convinced that any crime had been committed," he pointed out.

Cleary is currently on active status as an attorney in California. He is also admitted to practice law in New York, West Virginia, Federated States of Micronesia, and Guam. He is the first American to obtain a Ph.D. from Hokkaido University in Japanese Public Law.

From April 2004 to March 31, 2008, Cleary was employed as an associate professor of law at the Iwate University in Morioka Japan, where he lectured on subjects of criminal procedure and comparative law.

Miura had already been convicted in Japan in 1994 for the murder of his wife, Kazumi. The verdict, however, was overturned by Japan's high court in 1998.

Saipan authorities arrested the 60-year-old Miura at the Saipan International Airport last Feb. 21 in connection with the 1981 murder of Kazumi. He has been in detention since his arrest and is fighting his extradition to L.A.

SUNSET SWIM JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
A student enjoys his summer break by swimming at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Guerrero: Past BOE members ignored rating system for COE

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

The rating system for the selection of the education commissioner was ignored by majority of previous Board of Education members, according to BOE vice chair Herman Guerrero.

"There was a rating system that was already approved by the board for the last selection but three members decided to ignore it," Guerrero said.

The rating system included the traditional interview with the BOE, the candidate's collection of letters of recommendations, his credentials, and his written statement on his personal philosophy on education.

"We already had them [rating system] in place but they [previous BOE members] decided to just throw them out...all of it," Guerrero said.

Former education commissioner Dr. David Borja, according to Guerrero, was hired based on the decision of three majority members of the BOE. "The interview and the rating system were not considered."

Guerrero said the present BOE will conduct the interview and rating system in its selection of the schools system's next education commissioner.

He said the weight of the rating system has yet to be discussed among the board for those candidates who have already met the minimum requirements.

He maintained that there are no potential candidates at this point as the position had just been recently announced.

He added that rumors of the board in favor of Rita Sablan assuming the position of education commissioner "is not true."

"I don't know where she [a reporter from another local newspaper] is getting her information but all we're saying is that we do not have anybody in mind right now. But if Rita wants to apply, she can. But she will have to go through the selection process just like everybody else," Guerrero said.

Deadline for applications is on July 19, after which the board will begin its selection process. The board aims to have a new PSS education commissioner in place by Aug. 1.

Tinian GOP backs transparency at Legislature

The Republican Party on Tinian has expressed full support for a proposal to re-apply the Open Government Act to the Legislature.

"During these austere times, when our people are suffering so much every time they buy gas to get to work or pay their CUC [Commonwealth Utilities Corporation] bills, it is imperative that our public officials demonstrate a high standard of accountability for CNMI public funds," said former lawmaker Ramon M. Dela Cruz, president of the Tinian Republican Party.

The Tinian Republicans collected about 200 signatures in support of a petition for a popular initiative calling for a more transparent Legislature.

The initiative has been submitted to the Attorney General's Office for certification. Proponents of the initiative, led by Rep. Tina Sablan, are hoping to get the initiative on the ballot for this year's historic election. On Nov. 4, 2008, the Commonwealth will elect its first-ever delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Though the Open Government Act applies to all other government agencies, the Legislature passed a law in 1994 to exempt itself from the act's provisions. The petition calls for a law re-applying the government transparency law to the Legislature.

To get placed on the ballot, a popular initiative to amend a law must include the signatures of at least 20 percent of the certified voters. This requirement is equivalent to 2,400 signatures.

The initiative will become law if it receives majority of the votes cast. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

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'Karidat is for emergency purposes only'

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With its increasing number of clients and an annual budget of just $890,386, the assistance provided by Karidat Social Services is very limited and is mainly for emergencies only, according to Karidat executive director Angie V. Leon Guerrero.

"We still have a number of people coming in seeking assistance in our family services program even though what we provide out of the program is for emergency purposes only," Guerrero said.

She said that it's already enough that the family services program does not have much funding, but for individuals who blow off their food stamp benefits or neglect to renew their food stamps for the next month and then constantly seek assistance from the program is not fair for those who really need them.

"I understand that we're in an economic situation and the price of commodities are going up, but we're also here to assist people on how to budget their food stamps so they can make them last until they receive them again," Guerrero said.

The family services program comprises the shelter program and provision of clothing and food, mostly donated by members of the community.

Guerrero said she finds it difficult to say "no" to those who have children but who have become dependent on the program.

"When there are children involved, we try to accommodate them as much as we can," Guerrero said.

She added that people need to take responsibility as it will only benefit themselves.

The *Saipan Tribune* reported earlier that the Karidat Social Services clientele for calendar year 2007 has been the highest ever in 10 years.

In 2007, the non-profit organization provided services to 4,515 clients, and 1,746 of those availed of the family services program.

Ex-PSS staff accused of beating wife pleads guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former Public School System employee accused of seriously injuring his wife during a beating pleaded guilty to the charges yesterday.

Vicente Limes Laniyo, 41, pleaded guilty to aggravated assault and battery.

Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona accepted Laniyo's plea and set the sentencing for Oct. 1, 2008 at 9am. Manglona directed the Adult Probation Office to file a pre-sentence investigation report on or before Sept. 5, 2008.

Laniyo was last assigned at the PSS food and nutrition service program.

In September 2007, the Attorney General's Office charged the defendant with three counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, one count of aggravated assault and battery, and one count of kidnapping.

Laniyo and his lawyer, assistant public defender Richard Miller, entered a plea agreement with the government, represented by assistant attorney general Mellisa Simms.

Pursuant to the plea agreement, Laniyo pleaded guilty to aggravated assault and battery, and the government agreed to dismiss the remaining charges.

The parties agreed that the sentence will be 10 years, all suspended except for an amount of time to be determined by the court.

The court will also get the input from the victim through testimony or a written victim impact statement.

Under the agreement, Laniyo will be serving a minimum of 40 months in prison.

The factual basis of the agreement stated that on Aug. 26, 2007, Laniyo caused serious bodily harm on his wife, including severe lacerations on her back, head, hand, and thighs, while in possession of an air rifle.

According to the victim's statement to police, she and Laniyo were talking shortly before midnight in their house in Garapan when he accused her of fooling around. Laniyo then allegedly started hitting her with weapons such as a machete, knife, and a pocket knife.

The victim said that after a few hours, she managed to get out of the house and seek help from a neighbor.

Nightclub operator, officer sue Labor

The operator and an officer of a karaoke bar have brought to court the Department of Labor's decision barring them from employing alien workers for numerous alleged violations of labor laws.

Petitioners Kaleidoscope Inc., owner of Hot City, and Kaleidoscope principal Jeff P. Santos, asked the Superior Court to review the Labor proceedings.

The petitioners, through counsel Mark B. Hanson, asked the court to rescind Labor's administrative order and the Labor's secretary's decision.

Hanson asserted that Labor's actions are "arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion and not otherwise in accordance with the law."

Hanson said the administrative proceedings in the hearing office were defective for a variety of procedural and substantive reasons.

"Kaleidoscope and Santos were denied proper notice and the effective assistance of counsel in the proceedings before the administrative hearing office," the lawyer said.

He said the administrative order is based on insufficient or erroneous evidence.

In his administrative order issued in 2006, then Labor administrative hearing officer and now Labor director Barry Hirsbein determined an abuse of business entry permits involving the petitioners, who recruited musicians from the Philippines.

Hirshbein sanctioned Kaleidoscope and Santos to pay a $3,000 fine and ordered them to pay a total of $6,088 in unpaid wages and liquidated damages to three musicians—Jesus M. Gavieres Jr., Ariel G. Gutierrez, and Michele B. Mangilinan.

The hearing officer referred the matter to the Attorney General's Office for investigation into possible immigration fraud.

Kaleidoscope and Santos appealed, but in April 2008 the Labor secretary affirmed Hirshbein's decision.

In Kaleidoscope and Santos' petition for judicial review, Hanson said Labor never issued a briefing schedule nor allowed a hearing on appeal, in violation of the petitioners' due process rights under the CNMI and U.S. constitutions.

He said Labor failed to allow his clients a meaningful opportunity to argue the merits of their appeal. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Adventure Guides Wanted

Marianas Trekking is hiring part time and full time guides to lead tourists on organized adventures. Applicants should be physically fit, able to bike, swim, kayak, and hike. Must be responsible, friendly, and outgoing. Japanese Language skills and Life Guarding skills a plus but we will train the right person. Apply in person between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon at the Marianas Trekking Adventure Center at the Mariana Resort and Spa.

Call 323-8735 for more information.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PROMOTIONAL & OPEN COMPETITIVE
POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION/TITLE: **COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION**
EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT NO.: **PSS-2008-034**
OPENING DATE: June 17, 2008 **CLOSING DATE: July 18, 2008**

The CNMI State Board of Education for the Public School System is seeking a student-centered and exemplary educational leader to serve as the Commissioner of Education. A candidate for the Commissioner of Education must be a dynamic, motivated educational leader with a collaborative management style and excellent communications skills who has demonstrated a commitment to education excellence. Additionally, the successful candidate will be one who can demonstrate knowledge and experience in applying current education research and practices and a clear record of improving student achievement. The successful candidate must demonstrate organizational knowledge and skills.

Duties and Responsibilities: The Commissioner of Education is the Chief Executive Officer of the Public School System and is responsible for all of its operations and activities.

Reports to: Board of Education. The Commissioner is appointed by the Board of Education for a term of four years but serves at the pleasure of the Board.

Qualification Requirements:

The applicant for the Commissioner of Education must have the following minimum qualifications:

1. Masters Degree in some field of education from an accredited college or university
2. At least five years experience in teaching or education administration
3. Demonstrated knowledge of school systems
4. Excellent communication skills in English
5. U.S. citizenship or eligible to work in the U.S. including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

The full time salary for this position is approximately $60,000.00 to $80,000.00 plus benefits.

Application Process

All applicants must completely fill out a Board of Education/Public School System Application Form. Interested applicants may obtain application forms at the Human Resources Office located on the third floor of the Retirement Fund Building on Capitol Hill. Or, it may be downloaded from the website and/or by a telephone request through the Human Resources Office. All inquiries related to this vacancy should be forwarded to: Mr. Ramon Diaz, Human Resources Officer, CNMI Public School System, P.O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950. Phone number 670.237-3031; Fax number 670.664.3707; Email address: diazr@pss.cnmi.mp

Direct all inquiries to the PSS Human Resources Office.

All application materials must be submitted to and received by close of business on July 18, 2008 Public School System (PSS)
3rd Floor Retirement Fund Building
Human Resource Department
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: 670.237-3051 • Fax: 670.664-3707
Email: hro@pss.cnmi.mp • Web site: http://www.pss.cnmi.mp

In order to be considered for this position, your application materials must include:

a. Application form including signatures
b. Resume or Curriculum Vitae
c. Written response to narrative questions (included in the application packet or on the website)
d. Four recent letters of recommendation regarding your professional work
e. Official college/university transcripts

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor - Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan , MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW08-IFB-022

ANYUTA ISLAND REVETMENT REPAIR, ROTA

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Anyuta Island Revetment Repair located in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (ROTA).

The project package will be available on or after June 12, 2008 at DPW Technical Services Division, 2d Floor-Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (US$100.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on July 1, 2008, 1:00 p.m. local time at the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Rota. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on July 9, 2008 to Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, DPW 2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 235-6346.

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW08-IFB-022". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 p.m. local time July 14, 2008. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2:00 p.m. local time July 14, 2008, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 14, 2008, and be received no later than July 23, 2O08. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 2:00 p.m. local time, July 28, 2008, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 2:00 p.m. local time, on July 17, 2008.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660".

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in confomiance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is one hundred fifty (150) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at three hundred dollars (US$300.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN M. APATANG
Resident Director

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

VIRGINIA C. VILLAGOMEZ
Governor's Authorized Representative (GM)

Taiwan to participate in Pacific Arts Festival

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa, (Samoa News/PIR)—An 80-member delegation from Taiwan will guest perform during the 10th Pacific Arts Festival and it's believed this is the first time Taiwan has participated in the history of the Pacific Arts festival.

Co-chairman Fagafaga Daniel Langkilde said Taiwan has been requesting for a long time to send a delegation but the festival committee gave its approval only last week.

He said the committee asked the Secretariat of the Pacific Community for an opinion and decision on Taiwan's request but was told that it's up to the host country.

"So we've decided to accept their request and invited them and we believe it's a good gesture on our part especially with the many Taiwanese living here," said Fagafaga. "However, Taiwan's designation will not be given the same designation as SPC island country members. Taiwan will be guest performers and this is a great opportunity to share their culture among the Pacific Islands."

He said Taiwan made similar requests in past festivals and he believes this is the first time in festival history that Taiwan will actually participate in the arts festival, which brings together various culture and exhibits from Polynesia, Melanesia and Micronesia.

Taiwan's 80 member delegation will be housed at either Tafuna High School or elementary school campus. Housing accommodations are currently being worked out.

Another delegation of guest performers who will appear during the festival is a group from a Samoan Church in San Diego who sent their request sometime ago, to the governor's office wanting to perform and the group has since been accepted.

Asked about confirmation from French Polynesia (Tahiti), Fagafaga said the committee is still waiting for a written confirmation of a verbal confirmation of their participation.

Once they are confirmed then all 27 members of the SPC will be present for the festival set for July 20 to August 2.

Meanwhile the festival committee has scheduled a "mini festival" for June 28, to showcase all of American Samoa's performers, exhibits and the final program. The venue is being put together at this time.

Performers include dance groups from Manu'a, Leone, Alao and Kanana Fou High School, all groups that performed during the 2008 Flag Day celebration in April.

Exhibits include all different forms of the arts.

PEW PRESENTATION

University of Guam economist Dr. Thomas Iverson and Former Guam senator and president of UOG John C. Salas give the preliminary results of an economic study identifying the costs and benefits of establishing a marine monument in the CNMI during the Saipan Rotary Club's regular Tuesday meeting at the Hyatt Regency's Giovanni's restaurant.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

NEW LOAD SHEDDING SCHEDULE

Due to the Commonwealth Ports Authority's inability to self-generate and power distribution equipment problems in Feeder 3, the previously promulgated June 13, 2008, CUC load-shedding schedule requires additional temporary changes. Because of the equipment failure in Feeder 3 on Tuesday, it will be replaced with Feeder 1, Second & Third Partials and Feeder 3 laterals only from 2pm through 4pm.

8:00am-10:00am — **Feeder 2: Second Partial**
Beach Road Garapan at Kristo Rai Church south to San Jose Intersection

10:00am-12:00pm — **Kiya 1: Second Partial**
CPA/Airport, Portions of Koblerville, As Perdido

12:00pm-2:00pm — **Kiya 4: Second Partial**
Mount Carmel and south to Portions of Chalan Kanoa

2:00pm-4:00pm — **Feeder 1: Second & Third Partial**
99 Cents store and portions of Garapan and Upper Navy Hill

Feeder 3: Laterals
Upper Gualo Rai, Taro Sue, Ace Hardware, Rem Center, PTI, McDonalds, XO Mart, H Mart

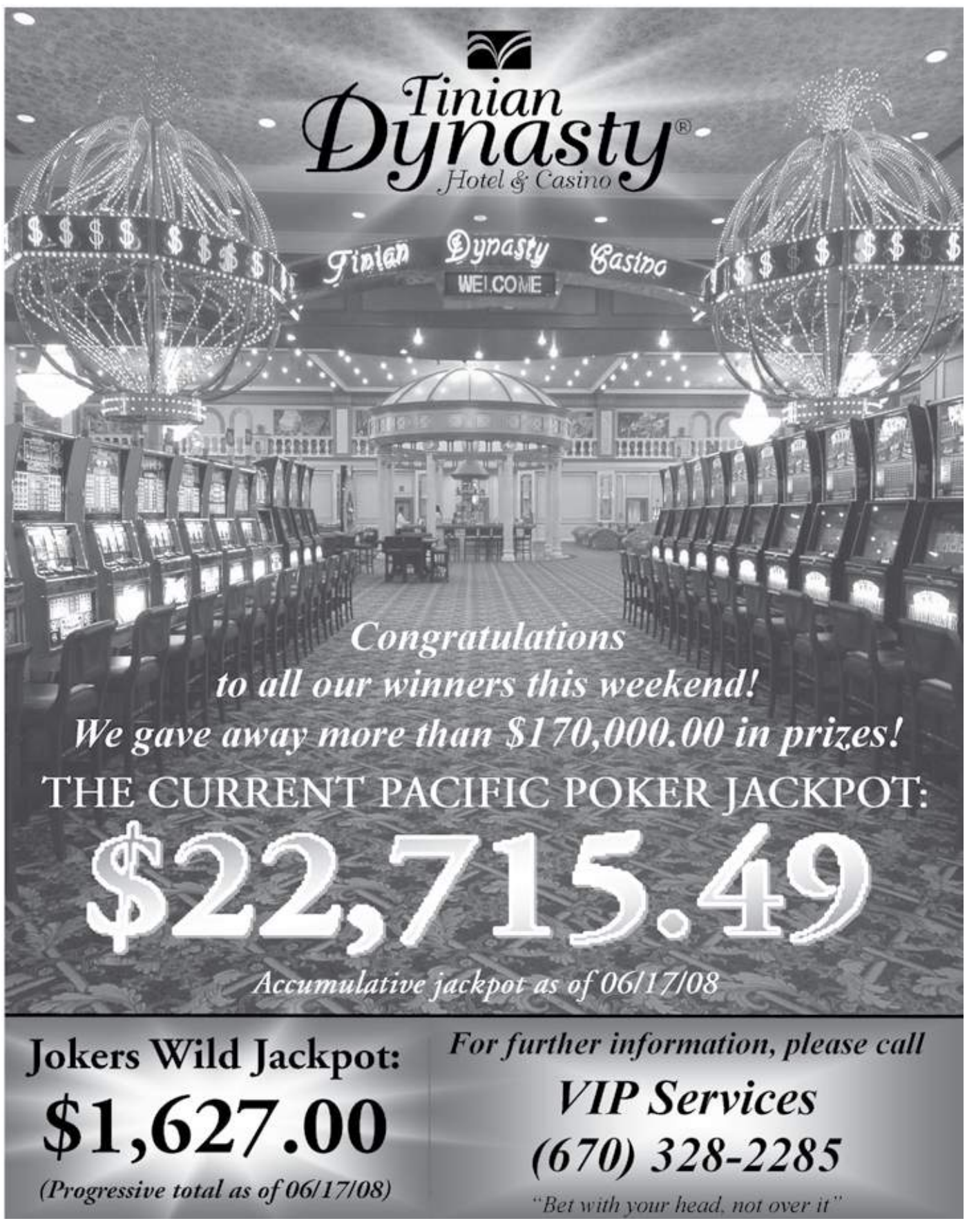
4:00pm-6:00pm — **Feeder 7: Entire Grid**
Lower Base industrial area, north to Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi

6:00pm-8:00pm — **Feeder 4: Second Partial**
Capital Hill, Kagman and portions of Papago (Botanical Garden)

8:00pm-10:00pm — **Kiya 2: Second Partial**
Portions of Koblerville, As Gonno, San Antonio and Afetnas

The first partial in each of the respective Feeder/Kiya could be included to the schedule should the second partial be insufficient. In addition, water and wastewater services will also be affected in the respective areas as a result of the power outages.

CUC will make all efforts to keep to this schedule; however, such schedule may be modified in future public notices. Please be informed that such schedule may be altered to address particular emergencies when necessary. ***(CUC)***



ASSESSMENTS CONTINUE TO SHOW:

US kids are victims of sex trafficking

WASHINGTON (PRNewswire/USNewswire)—Assessments by Shared Hope International continue to reveal a startling trend: American children are victims of the sex trade and they are being trafficked within the United States.

With funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, SHI is conducting field assessments in 10 U.S. locations, including the Northern Mariana Islands, that examine two critical issues: the identification of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking victims—American children who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation—and the service delivery to these victims.

The next two assessments will be released this week: Independence, MO and New Orleans/Baton Rouge, LA. With nearly half of the assessments complete, America has an even broader picture of the national epidemic of domestic minor sex trafficking.

A Kansas City-area survivor of child sex trafficking shares a shocking statement that is indicative of a national trend: "From the age of 12 to the time I turned 18 I was in different cities, different small towns where I was prostituted around the United States," said Kristy Childs, Founder of Veronica's Voice.

At an average age of 12, American children are lured by traffickers/pimps and prostituted on the streets, sold over the Internet, and exploited through pornography and strip dancing. The federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act provides that any minor exploited in the commercial sex market is a trafficking victim; however, SHI has identified trafficked children incarcerated across the country for prostitution and related charges.

"When a victim is labeled as a 'child prostitute' she is viewed as a delinquent. When she is properly identified as a victim there is a shortage of protective shelter in the United States so she is often placed in detention facilities with juveniles who have committed serious offenses," said SHI president and founder U.S. Rep. Linda Smith (1994-1998).

The findings of the Independence, MO assessment (Kansas City area) are available to the public on June 17, 2008 and the Baton Rouge/New Orleans, LA assessment will be available to the public on June 18, 2008.

The remaining U.S. assessments include Ft. Worth, TX; The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; San Antonio, TX; Salt Lake City, UT; and Buffalo, NY; and these findings will be released over the next several months. The Las Vegas, NV and Clearwater, FL assessments were released in March.

Shared Hope International rescues and restores women and children in crisis. For a decade SHI has worked diligently around the world in partnership with local groups to prevent trafficking and to rescue and restore the victims of sexual slavery, bringing hope to women and children everywhere. For more information visit www.sharedhope.org.

BEACH CLEANUP CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Marianas Institute of Filipino Accountants and CPAs or MIFICPA have their picture taken after their second beach cleanup under the DEQ Adopt A Beach program at 13 Fishermen's Beach on June 7, 2008.

Flame Tree TV sponsors second annual flame tree photo contest

Flame Tree TV, parent company of Local Channel KSPN2 and Visitor's Channel 3, is accepting entries into the second annual Flame Tree photography contest.

"We are looking for original photos that truly capture our famous Flame Trees and the essence of the Marianas," said Flame Tree TV president Chris Nelson.

The photos should be taken on Saipan, Tinian, or Rota and will be judged on style, originality, texture and tone. Winners will be announced during the Liberation Day Parade on July 4, 2008.

"Entries can be e-mailed or submitted in person, and we have some fun prizes for the winners including Hyatt gift certificates, Sandcastle dinner shows, and Saipan sunset cruises," said Adeana Shendal Greenlee, Flame Tree TV director of Business Development.

Photographs for consideration must be submitted to Flame Tree TV via e-mail at flametreetv@gmail.com or delivered to Flame Tree TV offices on the third floor of the Marianas Business Plaza, by July 3, 2008. There is a limit of three entries per person. Winning photos will be featured on the Local Channel 2 and The Visitors Channel 3.

The Flame Tree TV and Production Company manages and operates the local channel KSPN2, and The Visitors Channel 3. "KSPN2 News" is the No. 1 watched show in the CNMI, live at 6pm.

"The Visitors Channel" features where to go, what to do, and what to see. Programming includes information about restaurants, spas, hotels, shopping, tours, diving, history, and culture. ***(PR)***

SHRM meeting to feature McDonald's Ayuyu

The CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management will be holding its monthly General Membership Meeting on Thursday, June 19, with McDonald's president and owner Jose "Joe" C. Ayuyu as guest speaker.

Ayuyu will speak to the Chapter on the *Simple Truths of Business Success* and the importance of a company's greatest assets, its human resources.

The Society will also be announcing the recipients for the 2008 CNMI Chapter Scholarship.

The Chapter meeting will be held at the Giovanni's Restaurant of the Hyatt Regency Saipan. Doors open at 11:15 for registration. Cost for members is $15 and $20 for non-SHRM members and includes lunch. Reservations are requested.

Individuals interested in attending this meeting should contact Denise Montenegro, HR Department, Hyatt Regency at phone number 234-1234; Frannie T. Salas at e-mail francestsalas@gmail.com; or Polly Deleon Guerrero at e-mail pdlguerrero@mymarianas.com.

Members and guests are asked to bring their business card to this meeting to qualify to enter the raffle drawing. The Society will be raffling away some great prizes during this meeting.

The Society for Human Resource Management is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. The CNMI Chapter is composed of human resource professionals from a variety of industries, large and small, who recognize a need for a local society for professionals in the human resource field. The CNMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. ***(SHRM)***

NMC English placement test

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting an English placement test next Wednesday, June 25. The test will be conducted in Room D-1 and will run from 1pm to 4pm. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

Those who wish to take the test must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils.

There is a $25 fee for the English placement test that must be paid in advance at NMC's Finance Office (Monday to Friday, 9am - 4pm). Students will not be admitted to the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for either the placement test fee or the NMC application fee). Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee.

If you have any questions, call Mark Haag at the Languages & Humanities Dept. at (670) 234-5498 ext. 1733 or 1212. ***(NMC)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 19, 2000

EPA, CUC talk on NMI's water needs

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has been meeting with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, discussing ways on how the CNMI's public utility firm can be included in several federally funded programs that would address water issues. Barry F. Pollock, an environmental engineer from the San Francisco, California-based U.S. EPA Region 9 office assigned with the federal agency's water division, met yesterday with CUC Executive Director Bernard P. Villagomez.

Bill increasing MVA board gets Senate's approval

In a rider to legislation affecting the Marianas Visitors Authority, the Senate on Friday approved a proposal to increase the number of board directors from the current nine to 11 members. The two new directors will come from Rota and Tinian, with one additional representative each to the MVA's policy-making body in an effort to boost representation by both island municipalities in the tourism industry.

AG warns against deceiving credit cards

This gold may not even pass for a bronze. Two years after its resurgence in the Northern Marianas met by the Commonwealth government's prompt effort to curtail its spread, a United States-based company is once again trying to dupe CNMI consumers through notices that they have been pre-approved for a card with a tempting credit limit. The Consumer Counsel of the Attorney General's Office during the weekend warned that Dallas, Texas-based Credicorp Inc. is again sending tempting offers for worthless, pre-approved gold cards to CNMI consumers.

June 19, 2001

Safety nets eyed to meet projected FY02 revenues

The Tenorio Administration and the Legislature have partnered in crafting safety nets that would ensure government collection of taxes, in order to meet projected revenues amid economic slowdown. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio cited the need to meet projected earnings, identified under his Fiscal Year 2002 budget proposal, to prevent any disruption in the delivery of basic government and other social services to the community.

Auditors asked to guard public money vs. abuse

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday urged public auditors throughout the Pacific to continue guarding government coffers against corrupt individuals to ensure proper use of public funds. The governor spoke before 130 participants in the 12th annual workshop and conference of the Association of Pacific Islands Public Auditors on Saipan.

On minimum wage US Senate urged to justify claims

A Saipan legislator asked the United States Congress to provide the CNMI copies of studies allegedly commissioned by Washington to determine the impact of extending federal minimum wage into the Commonwealth. In a letter to US Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Rep. Dino M. Jones demanded that the US Senate prove its claims that it has commissioned studies relating to the extension of federal minimum wage into the Northern Marianas.

June 19, 2002

Government expects 10 percent hike in revenue next year

The Commonwealth's economy is still in a slump but things are improving and the government confident of a 10-percent increase in General Fund revenue in the next fiscal year. That is how Gov. Juan N. Babauta summarized yesterday's PowerPoint presentation on the CNMI's Financial Projections, even as he stressed that expenditure controls are still in place and would net the government even more savings in the months to come.

New postal rates on June 30

The United States Postal Service is scheduled to implement a new set of postal rates for domestic mail effective June 30 to defray increasing operational costs brought on by the economic crisis. The new postage rates will impose additional 3 cents or a 7.7-percent increase on the existing postage rates. The USPS currently carries non-denomination stamps, as regular stamps with new rates are anticipated to be out in the next three weeks.

Joeten's Best Buys of the Week!

June 19 thru June 25, 2008

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Full Length Mirror 100x30 cm
$6.99

Jumbo Ironing Board
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$3.99

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$17.99

Flocked Air Bed Single
$17.99

Supermarket

Palmolive Dishwashing Liquid 25oz.
$2.59/ea.

Gain 2x Liquid Laundry Detergent
Original 64 Loads
$11.59/ea.

JOETEN ACE® HARDWARE

Any Whirlpool Appliances
(Includes: Washer, Dryer, Range, Refrigerator or Freezer)

25% off
June 19 to 25, 2008

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Store Hours: Monday - Saturday 8am - 6pm/Sunday 8am - 5pm

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Joeten Shopping Center Beach Road, Susupe
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GUALO RAI BRANCH
Gualo Rai Commercial Center
Middle Road Tel: 235-9322 - Fax: 235-9325

SAN VICENTE BRANCH
San Vicente Road
Tel: 234-3176 - Fax: 235-0007

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 171

Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The right to love

Across California Tuesday, in mass public weddings and in small, private services, gay and lesbian couples exchanged official vows of undying love and wedlock. With the sanction of the state Supreme Court, these couples stood together as full citizens at last.

Their long odyssey to reach this day serves to remind us why people marry at all, especially in an era of casual relationships. As any married person can attest, marriage is significant precisely because it is difficult. True, it confers certain public protections, but even more, it requires personal sacrifices. If mutual affection and appreciation were enough to sustain relationships across the years, there would be no need for solemn vows of fidelity. Those vows protect many a marriage through many a rough patch; when two people agree to enter into such a union, it by rights should carry the name and honor of marriage, whether it's between people of opposite sex or between a man and a man, or a woman and a woman.

Opponents of same-sex marriage often deplore this expansion of the meaning of marriage because they view it as threatening to traditional unions. As they use this day as a rallying point for a proposed amendment to the state Constitution to ban such marriages, it's time to ask them directly: How does marriage of one type threaten others? Why do many heterosexuals feel that the beauty of their own marriage vows is in no way changed by today's weddings, while others feel theirs have somehow been diminished?

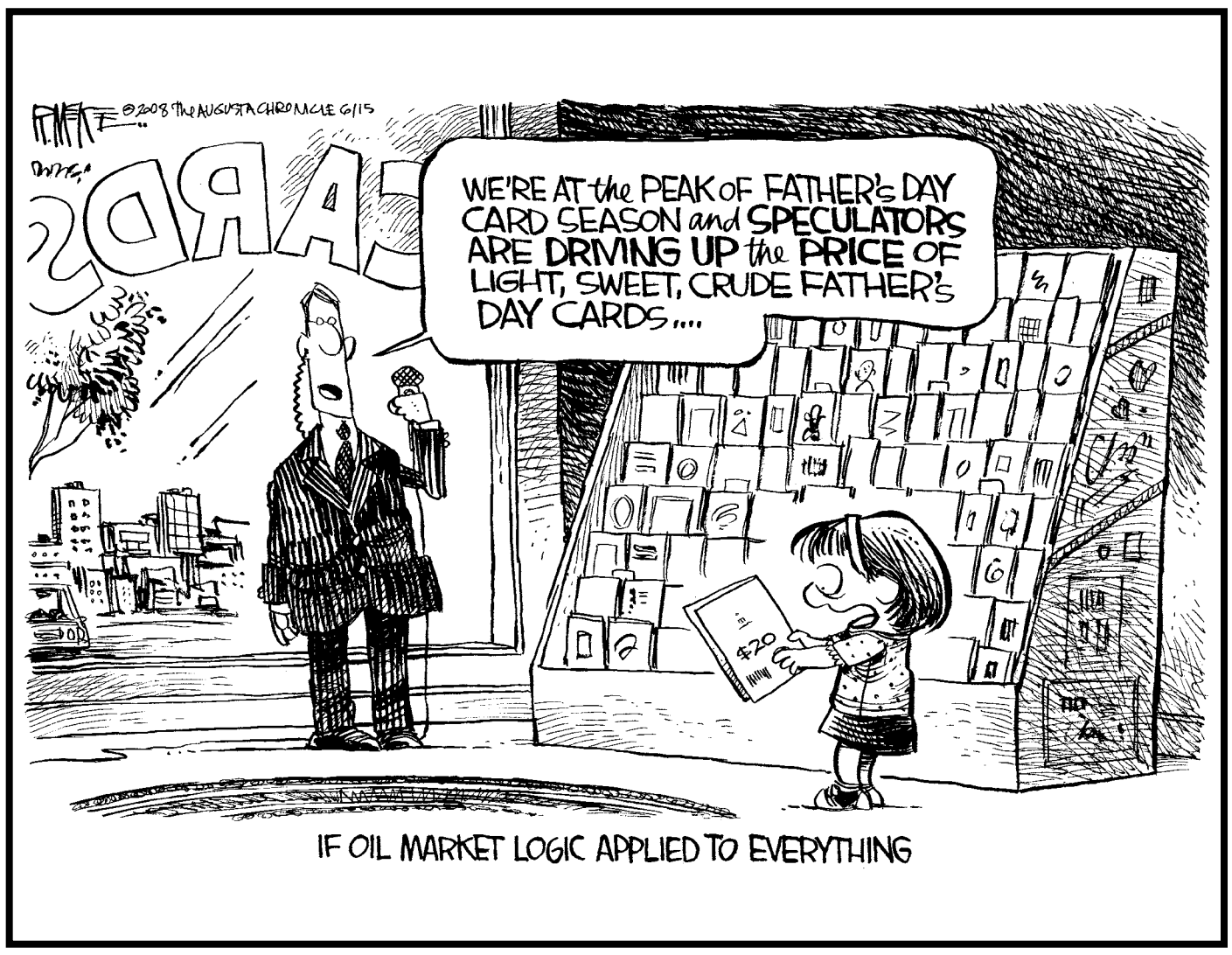
Perhaps the next few months will ease these fears, as same-sex couples begin their married lives together. Those couples will settle into communities without disorder or threat; they will bring legal protection to their bonds of love. Those bonds can only be good for society—children gain from being raised by married parents, and communities are stronger when residents are legally committed to one another. As more and more Californians marry, society will grow stronger, not weaker.

That's no doubt why opponents sought a stay of the court's ruling until after the election. They know that as same-sex marriages become commonplace, the fears about them will fade, and eventually we will wonder what all the fuss was about. In the meantime, opponents will resort to hyperbole and fear. Take this missive last week from the Alliance for Marriage, issued in response to the announcement that the state of New York would recognize the unions performed in California:

"The governor of New York state will declare hundreds of years of marriage law in New York to be null and void. ... The governor of New York state will force California-style 'gay marriage' on all the families and children of his own state."

It's a fairly reliable indicator of a bad argument when its proponent is forced to overstate the case in order to make it. The above surely qualifies. Same-sex couples are not upending the institution of marriage; nor are their supporters. Rather, they are engaged in a profoundly conservative act: They ask not to abolish marriage but to uphold it.

See THE RIGHT on Page 11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WE'RE AT the PEAK OF FATHER'S DAY CARD SEASON and SPECULATORS ARE DRIVING UP the PRICE OF LIGHT, SWEET, CRUDE FATHER'S DAY CARDS....
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IF OIL MARKET LOGIC APPLIED TO EVERYTHING

Fiscally fit

During the past 20 years, obesity among adults has risen significantly in the United States. Sixty-five percent of U.S. adults—or about 129.6 million people—are either overweight or obese. In addition to decreasing quality of life and increasing the risk of premature death, obesity and overweight cost the Nation an estimated $117 billion in direct medical costs and indirect costs such as lost wages due to illness."

—Center for Disease Control, August 2005

By RIK AND JANEL VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

"Just how important is health and fitness to your quality of life, both at work and home? If you could get a $3 return for every dollar invested while increasing productivity, reducing absenteeism, and improving the overall quality of life for everyone in your organization, would you want to learn more?

The quote above illustrates the effects of being overweight: the risk of premature death and an overall decrease in the quality of life. In addition, poor physical fitness has an impact on the fiscal fitness of companies, with estimates of $61 billion on direct health care costs and $56 billion in indirect costs because of lost wages due to illness, decreased productivity, and an increase in absenteeism and sick leave.

Corporations all over the world are beginning to recognize the effects of personal health and fitness and the direct correlation it has to the bottom line. Many encourage memberships at a fitness club, or have onsite fitness centers their employees can use during lunch, before work or after work.

CSX Corporation is an international transportation company with over 35,000 employees, and they decided to make a major investment in the health of their people. They determined their levels of cholesterol, blood glucose, and body mass index, and the results identified three common health issues: obesity, and cardiac and pulmonary disease.

Results are still being compiled, but Kenneth Glover, CSX Director of Health & Wellness, is confident that the investment in employee health will yield great returns for the employees and for the company, based on studies conducted by the federal government and other companies. "It's generally accepted that for every dollar invested in improving employee health, there is a $3 return, but we expect to do much better than that here, "Glover said.

The Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) in Western Australia developed a program that includes testing employee fitness and providing gyms, exercise classes, and health initiatives like skin and mole scanning. Since the program was introduced in 1995, CALM health officer, Alicia Taylor can provide some compelling statistics that supports a strong return on investment (ROI). Lost time due to injury has been reduced by 27.5 percent and injuries requiring medical treatment have dropped an impressive 38 percent. "We've also seen increased productivity and reduced sick leave," Taylor adds.

In a two-year study with 2,100 workers at the Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA), the percentage of employees with normal blood pressure increased from 28 percent to 37 percent. Employees with normal blood glucose levels also improved from 43 percent to 58 percent. Employees who missed work due to hypertension dropped from 25.8 percent to 15.6 percent, and those who missed work due to diabetes issues dropped from 50 percent to 16.9 percent—a 66.2 percent reduction!

So with all the benefits to workers and to the company, what is your organization doing to improve the health of its most valuable asset—its people? If your business is typical, the answer is probably "little or nothing."

As an employer, a fitness program will help improve productivity and reduce absenteeism. With healthcare costs skyrocketing, you will save on hospital bills and absenteeism due to illness or fatigue.

As an employee, you will have more energy, less sickness, and a better quality of life. Just doing some simple things that cause you to move more can get you started toward better health. Stand while you talk on the phone and pace back and forth (with a cordless phone), park a block away from work, walk up a flight of stairs instead of taking an elevator, or taking a short walk during your lunch break. All of these will increase circulation and help you become physically fit, while helping your organization become fiscally fit.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Some suggestions to solve CUC woes

By ED PROPST
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ed Propst is the president of Pacific Digital Media and publisher of the *MP Magazine*.

Last night (Tuesday, June 17), approximately 200 CNMI community members came together to offer ideas and suggestions on how to make things better at CUC. Tina Sablan and I facilitated the event and had a short presentation that included objectives, reasonable demands, and different actions the community can take in improving our public utilities corporation.

It was moving to see such a diverse group of people come together and speak from the heart. It was evident from the testimonies and comments from our community members that they are willing to stand up and act as advocates for change. It is important we realize that this is only the first step out of many we must make in our journey to make things better for all of us in our islands.

For the short presentation, reasonable demands were put forward to gain support from the community. We must bear in mind that this was only the first community forum on CUC, but there must be others, and we should hold them in different villages. Here are the five reasonable demands that were supported by majority of those who attended. Yes, they can be altered or modified if someone comes up with better ones. The bottom line is, we need to start somewhere. I will list them and explain their purpose:

A legislative oversight on CUC.

Let it be known that common citizens cannot subpoena individuals or records, but our legislators can. We can talk about illegal contracts and unfair or unethical practices at CUC, but it is difficult for us to get anywhere without real evidence of alleged violations. An oversight hearing is not a witch hunt if our leaders are going after specific violations and individuals who may have information to such violations. You have heard horror stories about CUC. It is important to know that they will only remain stories until our legislators work on exposing illegal or unethical practices. This will take time, but the end result is well worth it. Let's stop talking about alleged corruption at CUC and start looking into it. I am sure OPA can offer their expertise and assistance with the oversight and can target the areas that must be looked into!

Energy Summit.

The purpose of an energy summit is NOT to get a bunch of free lunches at a nice hotel and have a break from work. Its real intent is to have our leaders work with federal officials (Department of the Interior) in bringing out energy experts from the United States who can assist us in launching a CNMI-wide energy conservation plan! We can easily cut down on energy consumption if it is done the right way. Imagine retrofitting an office building so that it is energy-efficient and working with them and monitoring them to ensure that they are doing their best in conserving energy. How much savings could be realized if we did this with all of our government buildings and employees? If our leaders are unable to pull this off, then our business leaders should lead the charge. It is our businesses that are shutting down because of the exorbitant cost of energy, and it is only going to continue to skyrocket unless we do something about it. Conservation is key, and our government agencies must do their fair share if we are to bring down our costs! This energy summit must also address renewable energy initiatives, including net metering regulations.

Legislate a fair, transparent privatization plan for CUC.

Just about everyone in attendance agreed that our government is not capable of running CUC and that it needs to be privatized. While we all embrace privatization, we also must warn our leaders from fast-tracking it. Our Legislature is acting too hastily in passing a privatization bill that will push for a privatization bid within 45 days. I applaud their dedication in moving toward privatization, but the bottom line is, something of this magnitude must receive public input and comment. What is most troubling is the fact that local preference was included in the bill. Why? Shouldn't we be looking for a company that can give us the very best deal, as well as a company that has the best reputation and ability to run a utilities company? We need to forget about local preference at this point. But what really bothers me the most is that our Legislature has stated that OPA will not be allowed to assist in the bidding process! Why??? This is outrageous, and we must urge the Senate to hold public hearings and get input from our people before passing the privatization bill. I also question how they came up with the $250 million price tag. Wasn't it $500 million originally? Can our legislators honestly put a fair price tag on CUC? Do they have the expertise and knowledge to ensure that we are not getting ripped off?! Yes, our government isn't capable of running CUC, but rushing privatization may actually make things worse if it is not done right.

Hire a qualified executive director for CUC with proper credentials.

I will be the first to say that our current executive director, Tony Muna, is doing his very best. I don't think anyone doubts this. The problem is, this is one of the most critical positions in the CNMI and it must be filled by a person with experience and expertise in running a utilities company. If anything, I believe Mr. Muna would make an excellent comptroller or CFO. He specializes in finance and is great with money matters, but that doesn't qualify him to run CUC. Would you have a person run Northern Marianas College if he/she never worked at a college? Would you have a plumber perform dental work on your teeth? Yes, these are absurd examples, but isn't it absurd that we continue to put people in critical positions without the training, experience, expertise, and credentials? Certain jobs demand technical expertise, and CUC's executive director position should be at the top of the list!

Sign the stipulated order on water and wastewater.

We get so bogged down with our power woes that we forget about the fact that the CNMI has the worst water in the entire nation. We also have the highest number of fines. CUC has been involved in a lengthy negotiations process with the Department of Justice and the Environmental Protection Agency, and that an agreement had been reached between CUC's former executive director, Tony Guerrero, and the federal government. The new executive director, Tony Muna, however, has yet to sign the order. Why isn't this being signed? What is the holdup? We must adhere to federal regulations not only to avoid costly fines, but to ensure that we aren't brushing our teeth and bathing in sewer water! We cannot put a price on the health and safety of our people.

■ ■ ■

We asked those who attended the forum on what actions we could take to push our leaders to act on our five reasonable demands.

The four possible actions to take were:

Have everyone dispute their power and water bills.

It was interesting to know that many attending the forum admitted they were already disputing their power bills. One person had a $10,000 bill. Another was charged for using 27,000 gallons of water. One person had his power disconnected two weeks early and still had to pay an additional deposit and reconnection fee (oops, that was me!).

Class-action lawsuit.

Gather and file formal complaints with CUC.

Mass demonstration.

After a healthy discussion on what would be the most appropriate action to take, the majority of the community opted for a peaceful, mass demonstration up on Capital Hill. The exact time and date will be announced later. Other courses of action will still be considered.

There were many wonderful comments made and recorded and we will gather them, compile them, and share it with you soon. Here are just a few out of the dozens of brilliant ideas and comments from our community members:

CUC's line losses are at 25 percent and are a big reason why we pay so much. Rural Electric Association standards in the United States average 3 percent, and Guam is rated at 6 percent. If we cut down our line losses, we can cut down the fuel consumption, which will result in lowering our rates.

We could cut the price of generating power significantly if we switched back to bunker fuel oil, or black oil, instead of using #2 diesel oil. Guam is using black oil and only charges 24 cents per kilowatt hour.

Establish a co-op instead of privatization. That way we are all investors. Kauai Electric did it, so why can't we?

We must demand that CUC clean up its act as far as the billing/accounts payable/customer service is concerned and that they practice fair, consistent, considerate policies, practices, and procedures.

Have the CUC subsidy apply to everyone across the board.

Net metering regulations—have people generate their own power through renewable energy sources and feed it back to the grid, but in a safe and approved manner that meets federal regulations and standards.

Go to the villages and get support from the villagers. Not all of them can afford to drive all the way down to Susupe with the high price of gasoline.

My dear friends, please know that no matter what, we are all in this together. Let's keep our eye on the prize, which is to DEMAND reliable, dependable, and affordable power for the entire CNMI!

For all the critics and pessimists, please realize that it is better to do something than to do nothing. It is better to speak out than to say nothing at all. And it is better to be an advocate for change than an advocate for the status quo. The bottom line is, anything you truly love is worth fighting for. I love Saipan. It has been my home for 34 years. I'd like it to be home for another 34. Will you join us or will you continue to sit on the sidelines and watch our islands crumble? The time has come for us to show our leaders that our people deserve the very best from them. Anything less will no longer be accepted.

Thank you all for coming and for your dedication in working toward a better CNMI. I want the public to know this forum wouldn't have been possible without you.

I would like to thank Rep. Ray Yumul and my wonderful friends for helping us out during our initial meetings, and I would like to thank Reps. Ed Salas, Ralph Torres, Diego Benavente, Stanley Torres, Rosemond Santos, and Sen. Frica Pangelinan for attending. You cared enough to come and listen to the wishes of the community. We ask for your continued support and hope that you will take to heart of the comments and feedback from your constituents. Dangkulu na si yu'us ma'ase.

Should you have any questions or would like to meet, please feel free to contact me at 483-7361. You can also make comments on my blog at http://marianaspride.blogspot.com/.

THE RIGHT

From Page 10

Some religious organizations won't perform these marriages or recognize these unions—that's their constitutional right. But the government, which has obligations of equity, may not engage in the discrimination that religions are allowed. As long as it bestows the privileges of marriage on some couples, it must bestow them on all.

In California, the initiative process allows voters to amend the state Constitution directly, and unfortunately, a measure on the November ballot will give them the chance. The question won't be whether same-sex marriage is right or wrong—that's a matter of personal conviction—but whether those who believe it is wrong should have the power to deny marriage to those who seek its protections.

Put another way: Many Californians undoubtedly object to unwed couples who have and raise children together, but no constitutional amendment prevents that, whatever the moral calculus.

To those who insist that an unevolving morality undergirds our state and federal constitutions, we remind them that not so long ago, many Americans believed with passionate conviction that it was a sin, a threat to families and a violation of the law for people of different races to marry.

The 1959 ruling of a Virginia state court judge to deny this right to a black woman and a white man aptly summarized the fervor with which opponents of miscegenation drew on tradition and religion to support their views:

"Almighty God created the races white, black, yellow, malay and red, and he placed them on separate continents," trial judge Leon Bazile wrote. "And but for the interference with his arrangement there would be no cause for such marriages. The fact that he separated the races shows that he did not intend for the races to mix."

The U.S. Supreme Court struck down that ruling in 1967; on that happy day, 16 states were forced to abandon their laws banning interracial marriage. Today, interracial couples go about their lives without legal threat; some no doubt still feel the sting of disapproval. But those who would look askance on those lawfully wedded couples do so without the state to reinforce their bigotry. Our courts, certainly our supreme courts, exist not to assess God's will but to enforce the precepts of our constitutions, including the insistence that all Americans—black or white, male or female, straight or gay—are entitled to equal protection and the due process of our laws.

The California Supreme Court affirmed that principle last month and delivered the eloquent basis for Tuesday's ceremonies. As the state's voters watch the celebrations in the coming months, they should enjoy the sight of fellow citizens availing themselves of a public institution, that of marriage. These celebrations allow us to share in the newlyweds' happiness, to join in acknowledging a milestone of joy and lifelong commitment. And they prompt at least one more question for those who disapprove: How can the state's blessing on these acts of love in any way diminish us?

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲87° ▼78	▲87° ▼78°

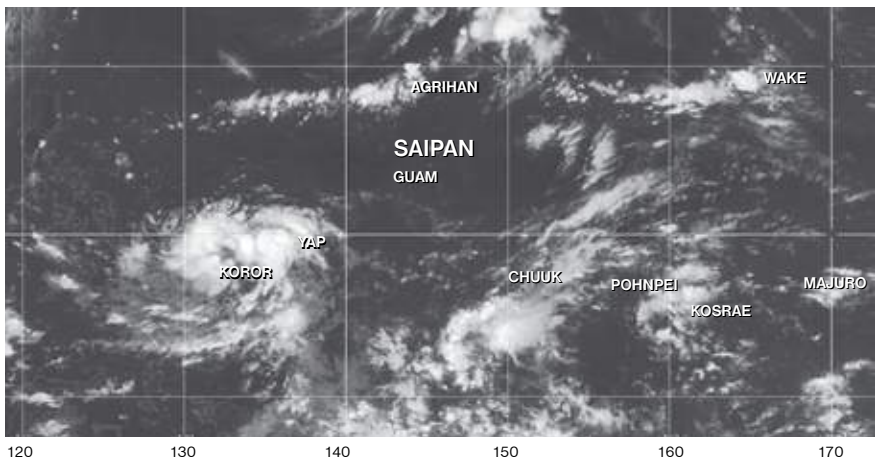
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲85	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼72
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼72
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼74

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲59	▼45
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼75
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79
Honolulu	Showers	▲82	▼75
London	Showers	▲70	▼50
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲88	▼64
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲90	▼80
Melbourne	Thunderstorms	▲59	▼49
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87	▼76
New York	Thundershowers	▲74	▼60
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲76	▼71
Paris	Showers	▲73	▼53
Pusan	Cloudy	▲86	▼69
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼62
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲74	▼45
San Francisco	Sunny	▲76	▼54
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲81	▼62
Tokyo	Rain	▲75	▼61
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲78	▼61

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:50PM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends eastward from 10N130E through a circulation centered north of Koror at 8N134E then turns southeastward through another weak circulation centered south of Chuuk near 3N148E to end at eq150E. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are found along the trough axis north of Koror and just west of Yap between 8N and 11N from 130E to 138E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring south of the trough axis over Koror between 3N and 8N from 130E to 137E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are forming near the second circulation southwest of Chuuk within 150 miles of a line from 6N151E to 1N146E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers over Chuuk and Pohnpei but just west of Kosrae in an area bounded by 7N150E to 5N157E to eq162E to 10N163E to 10N150E back to 7N150E. Scattered showers are also seen over Majuro and westward to the dateline between 5N and 9N from 168E to 180. A shear line extends southwestward from 23N153E across Agrihan to 17N140E and turns westward to end at 17N131E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are erupting along and up to 150 miles north of the shear line. An upper-level trough extends westward from 21N180E through an upper-level low centered near 21N176E to 20N159E then turns southwestward through another upper low centered near 16N152E to end at 12N147E. Upper-level divergence associated with the these features are enhancing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms activity near the dateline up to 350 miles west of 180 between 16N and 23N and just west of Wake Island within 90 miles of a line from 19N165E to 17N157E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:20AM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
6:44AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
2:25PM Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
9:46PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:47AM	6:49 PM
Friday	5:47AM	6:49 PM
Saturday	5:47AM	6:50 PM
Sunday	5:48AM	6:50 PM
Monday	5:48AM	6:50 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:23PM	5:50AM
Friday	8:11PM	6:43AM
Saturday	8:55PM	7:37AM
Sunday	9:37PM	8:29AM
Monday	10:16PM	9:21AM

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- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $182. Off-island subscription rate is $376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily
Saipan-Manila			
CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3
Saipan-Seoul			
OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7
Guam-Manila			
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou			
CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6
Guam-Hongkong			
CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily via Nagoya
Osaka-Saipan			
NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily
Manila-Saipan			
CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3
Seoul-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7
Manila-Guam			
CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Guanzhou-Saipan			
CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5
Hongkong-Guam			
CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5
Rota-Guam			
CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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$22.99/cs.

Whole Chicken Fryer 30#
$35.99/cs.

Chicken Drumstick Tray 8p
$1.36/lb.

Beef Spareribs 20# BBQ or Adobo cut
$18.99/cs.

Salmon Collar "Smoke"
$2.99/lb.

Heinz, Ketchup 44oz.
$3.69 ea.

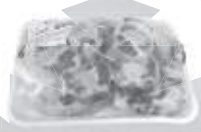
S&W, Whole Kernel Corn 15oz.
99¢ ea.

Hormel, Vienna Sausage 5oz.
60¢ ea.

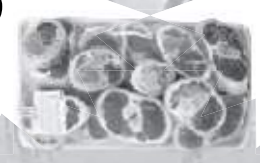
Dinty Moore, Beef Meatball Stew 15oz.
$1.69 ea.

Beef Short Ribs
$3.69 lb.

U.S. Beef Oxtail 10#
$29.99 cs.



U.S. Pork Hocks
$1.79 lb.



U.S. Pork Neck Bone
$1.79 lb.

U.S. Goat Ribs Skin-On
$4.29 lb.

Quail Family Pack 28 oz.
$12.49 cs.

GROCERIES

Folgers Coffee Decaf or Regular Coffee 39oz.
$6.99/ea.

Axxion Foam Plates 125 ct.
$6.55/ea.

Zee Napkins 360 ct.
$4.00/ea.

Soft N' Gentle Tissue 12 roll
$5.55/ea.

Woolite 16 oz.
$3.59/ea.

Ox & Palm Corned Beef 11.5 oz.
$2.19/ea.

Sun Flower Mackerel 15 oz.
$1.70

PRODUCE

Onion, Yellow US
47¢/lb.

Potato, Russet US
65¢/lb.

Cabbage, Green US
79¢/lb.

Lettuce Romaine Hearts
$2.69/pk.

Garlic, Netted US
$1.14/lb.

Orange Choice US
91¢/lb.

Apple, Gala US
$1.46/lb.

Japan

Jpn Kanet Nihon Soba 250g.
$1.10/ea.

JpnSunaoshi Nihon Noodle 200g.
80¢ ea.

Jpn Aji Cookdo Banbanjii 90g.
$2.00/ea.

Higasa Makihushi 280g.	$3.69
House Macaroni Gratin 160g.	$2.90
Aji Cookdo Subuta 140g.	$2.39
Lion Mosquito Coil	$1.49

Meat

U.S. Beef Shank	$1.99 lb.
U.S. Beef Ribeye Steak	$2.79 lb.
U.S. Pork Leg Whole	$1.95 lb.
U.S. Goat Steak Skin-On	$4.29 lb.
U.S. Goat Soup SLC Skin-On	$4.29 lb.
U.S. Ham, Pork Picnic SMK	$1.89 lb.

Groceries

Airwick Airfreshener 6ct.	$19.00
Joy D/Liq. Lemon 16oz.	$1.35
Takeya Tokujyo Miso 1kg.	$4.59
House Macaroni Gratin 160g.	$2.90
Macaroni Restaurant 300g.	89¢
BC HH Beef Pasta 5.6 oz.	$2.00
Folgers Coffee Decaf 12 oz.	$7.00

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Business

Oil dips, but no letup at the pump

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices ended modestly lower Tuesday as investors mulled whether expected production increases would do enough to quench rising global demand. It was the third straight day of declines.

Light, sweet crude for July delivery fell 60 cents to settle at $134.01 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Prices traded within a narrow range compared with recent sessions. With no major news to drive the markets higher or lower, traders eased up ahead of weekly U.S. inventory figures due out Wednesday.

In the United States, retail fuel prices remained near record highs.

The national average for a gallon of regular gasoline hovered at $4.078, down just two-tenths of a penny from the previous day's all-time high, according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. Diesel dipped by a similar amount to $4.795 a gallon.

Those near-record prices are taking a toll on the nation's economy. The Labor Department said wholesale inflation bolted up 1.4 percent last month—its biggest increase in sixth months—because of higher energy and food costs.

Higher wholesale prices could lead to increased costs for U.S. shoppers, prompting them to cut back even further on fuel.

The U.S. is by far the world's biggest oil consumer, although demand in booming Asian markets and other parts of the world is accelerating rapidly. That growth ensures worldwide supplies remain tight even as U.S. drivers ease up.

A weekly report from MasterCard found U.S. gas consumption last week dropped 3.2 percent from the previous year. The credit card company's SpendingPulse survey also showed gasoline demand is off 4.3 percent over the past four weeks.

Analysts expect the Energy Information Administration inventory figures out Wednesday morning will show U.S. oil stockpiles fell by about 2 million barrels, while gasoline inventories rose by nearly a million barrels last week, according to a survey by Platts, the energy research arm of McGraw-Hill Cos.

Stocks fall as data show drag of higher oil

NEW YORK (AP)—Stocks tumbled Tuesday as a troubling reading on wholesale inflation underscored the drag of high energy prices on the economy. Investors, also growing anxious again about banks' credit woes, sent the Dow Jones industrial average down more than 100 points.

The Labor Department said its index of producer prices jumped 1.4 percent in May—the largest increase since November. The core producer price index, which strips out often volatile food and energy prices, rose by a mild 0.2 percent.

The Dow fell 108.78, or 0.89 percent, to 12,160.30.

Broader stock indicators also declined. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 9.21, or 0.68 percent, to 1,350.93, while the Nasdaq composite index fell 17.05, or 0.69 percent, to 2,457.73.

Bond prices rose on sluggish economic data. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, fell to 4.20 percent from 4.27 percent late Monday.

Besides the rise in wholesale inflation, the government reported a 3.3 percent decline in May home construction and a 1.3 percent dip in building permits—signs of persistent weakness in the struggling housing market. Another report showed a 0.2 percent dip in industrial production in May, following a 0.7 percent decline in the previous month.

Economy struggles with rising commodity prices, slow growth

AP

Jose Castro finishes a chocolate cake at a local bakery shop in Los Angeles on Tuesday, June 17, 2008. There are growing concerns that rising energy and food costs will eventually force companies to boost prices for lots of other goods and services, spreading inflation through the economy.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Wholesale prices barreled ahead while housing and industrial activity faltered—a blend of high-costs and slow growth that ensures the Federal Reserve's most likely move on interest rates next week will be no move whatsoever.

Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues have made increasingly clear they're not inclined to cut interest rates further for fear of aggravating inflation. On the other hand, boosting rates too soon to fend off inflation would hurt an economy already battered by housing, credit and financial woes.

"The Fed is in a box," Ken Mayland, president of ClearView Economics, said after the latest batch of economic barometers were released Tuesday. That's why many economists are predicting the Fed will hold rates steady at 2 percent, a four-year low, at the June 24-25 session.

The Labor Department's Producer Price Index, which measures the costs of goods before they reach store shelves, leaped 1.4 percent in May, the biggest increase in six months. Galloping energy and food prices, which are especially squeezing business profits, figured prominently in the index's pickup.

On Wall Street, the news sent stocks tumbling. The Dow Jones industrials lost 108.78 points to close at 12,160.30.

The economy's problems and high prices for fuel and raw materials are taking a toll on manufacturers and others.

The Federal Reserve reported that industrial production fell 0.2 percent in May, the second straight monthly decline.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Northwest Airlines announces larger capacity cuts

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Northwest Airlines said Tuesday it will cut its capacity later this year by 3 percent to 4 percent because of high fuel prices. The reductions were deeper than those announced in April, though they're smaller than cuts announced by many other airlines. The airline said it will try to shrink its staff through voluntary means, but layoffs are possible, too. Northwest said it has not yet arrived at the number of positions it wants to eliminate. Northwest Chief Executive Doug Steenland said Northwest is aiming to match its capacity to customer demand as airfares increase. "We don't anticipate doing anything in addition, but if fuel continues to be challenging we clearly have the wherewithal to take additional action," he told analysts at a conference on Tuesday.

Air Canada to cut 2,000 jobs, slash capacity

TORONTO (AP)—Air Canada will cut up to 2,000 jobs, or 7 percent of its work force, and said Tuesday it is slashing capacity like other major carriers beset by record fuel prices. "If fuel prices remain at current levels, we can anticipate further capacity reductions," president and CEO Montie Brewer said in a statement. Canada's biggest airline will reduce capacity on routes to the United States by 13 percent, meaning a 7 percent cut across the board including domestic and international flights. The carrier has about 28,000 employees. Two weeks ago, Continental said it will shed 3,000 jobs—more than 6 percent of its work force. United Airlines then announced it would cut up to 1,100 more jobs.

US, China report no major economic breakthroughs

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP)—Top finance officials from the United States and China pledged greater cooperation Tuesday on a range of economic issues from dealing with soaring energy prices to coping with the global shocks from America's subprime mortgage crisis. However, it was clear that the fourth round of high-level economic talks would leave both nations far apart on a number of contentious subjects from U.S. unhappiness over the slow pace of China's economic reforms to Chinese concerns about increasing protectionist sentiments in the United States. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson hoped that the two days of talks will produce enough results to persuade the next administration to continue the meetings. It was Paulson's brainchild to start the twice-a-year discussions in 2006.

Summer job market tough for poor kids

By ELLEN SIMON
AP BUSINESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—As summer arrives, the job market for teens is suffering along with the rest of the economy. And those jobs will be harder to find this year for the poorer kids who need them the most as laid-off adults compete for work at the lowest rung.

"Summer is a time when the rich get richer and the poor get poorer," said Ron Fairchild, executive director of the Center for Summer Learning at Johns Hopkins University.

Wealthier teens are more likely to have the family and school connections that help them land summer jobs - as counselors at the camps they attend, lifeguards at the pools where they swim and clerks at the stores where they shop.

Last summer, half of teens whose families earned $75,000 to $100,000 worked, according to the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University. Less than a third of teens from families making less than $20,000 had work.

Black teens in central cities had just a 15 percent employment rate.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
5,550.300
Up 24.400
(+0.44%)

HONG KONG
23,398.14
Up 340.15
(+1.48%)

JAKARTA
2,371.2429
Down 6.733
(-0.28%)

TOKYO
14,452.82
Up 104.45
(+0.73%)

K. LUMPUR
1,227.76
Down 10.30
(-0.83%)

MANILA
2,628.20
Down 9.06
(-0.34%)

SINGAPORE
3,035.50
Down 32.11
(-1.04%)

SEOUL
1,774.13
Up 23.42
(+1.34%)

BANGKOK
769.06
Down 8.11
(-1.04%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
12,160.30
-108.78

NASDAQ
2,457.73
-17.05

S&P
1,350.93
0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0621
British Pound	0.5123
Canadian Dollar	1.0184
Chinese Renmbi	6.8824
Euro	0.645
Hong Kong Dollar	7.8078
Indian Rupee	42.893
Indonesian Rupiah	9285
Japanese Yen	108.075
Malaysian Ringgit	3.2558
New Zealand Dollar	1.3233
Philippine Peso	44.245
Singapore Dollar	1.3678
South Korean Won	1029.2
Swiss Franc	1.0432
Taiwan Dollar	30.334
Thailand Baht	33.235

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

Mississippi River breaks through Illinois levee

GULFPORT, Ill. (AP)—The rising Mississippi River broke through a levee Tuesday, forcing authorities to rescue about a half-dozen people by helicopter, boat and four-wheeler as floodwaters moved south into Illinois and Missouri.

But even as the water jeopardized scores of additional homes and businesses, officials said the damage could have been worse if the federal government had not taken steps to clear flood-prone land after historic floods in 1993.

On Tuesday, the flooding halted car travel over two bridges linking Illinois and Iowa and threatened to cover areas near tiny Gulfport with 10 feet of water.

"I'm not going back after this one," 83-year-old Lois Russell said as she watched water surround her house near Gulfport. It was the third time she had fled her home because of flooding since 1965.

"It was a good placed to raise my seven kids," she said, crying. "I know I haven't lost anything that feels important because I have a big family."

The area was inundated after a levee broke near Gulfport. The details of the rescues were unclear because of discrepancies in the numbers of people involved and the circumstances described by state and local officials. But authorities agreed that boats and helicopters were involved in the efforts.

Preliminary estimates were that the flooding has caused more than $1.5 billion in damage in Iowa, and that figure will undoubtedly rise as the high water moves downstream.

Still, officials said the cost would have been even higher if the federal government had not purchased low-lying land after the 1993 deluge, which caused $12 billion in damage.

AP

Iowa National Guard Staff Sgt. Chris Hartl looks over the edge of a sandbag levee at the overflow of the Mississippi River near Kingston, Iowa, Tuesday, June 17, 2008.

Bush to urge Congress to allow offshore drilling

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush plans to make a renewed push Wednesday to get Congress to end a long-standing ban on offshore oil and gas drilling, echoing a call by GOP presidential candidate John McCain.

Congressional Democrats have opposed lifting the prohibitions on energy development on nearly all federal Outer Continental Shelf waters for more than a quarter-century, including waters along both the East and West coasts.

With oil prices soaring and motorists paying $4 a gallon for gasoline, political pressures have been growing for more domestic oil and gas production.

"The president believes Congress shouldn't waste any more time," White House press secretary Dana Perino told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

"He will explicitly call on Congress to ... pass legislation lifting the congressional ban on safe, environmentally friendly offshore oil drilling," Perino said. "He wants to work with states to determine where offshore drilling should occur."

Bush also will reiterate his call for development of oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, Perino said. McCain has opposed drilling in the refuge, maintaining that the pristine areas in northeastern Alaska should be protected from energy development.

On Monday, McCain made lifting the federal ban on offshore oil and gas development a key part of his energy plan. The Arizona senator said states should be allowed to pursue energy exploration in waters near their coasts and receive some of the royalty revenue.

ACROSS THE NATION

Maryland elects 1st black woman to Congress

LANHAM, Md. (AP)—Lawyer and nonprofit executive Donna Edwards has won a special election to become Maryland's first black congresswoman. The Democrat beat Republican Peter James Tuesday in the race to serve the remainder of former U.S. Rep. Albert Wynn's term. Wynn left office last month to take a lobbying job after losing to Edwards in the February Democratic primary by 22 percentage points. The 49-year-old Edwards will hold the seat for the rest of the year, but she faces James again in November's general election.

Texas death row inmate granted reprieve

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP)—A former topless-club bouncer condemned for a double slaying almost 20 years ago won a reprieve Tuesday just over an hour before he could have been put to death, while Oklahoma executed its first death row inmate since last August. Charles Dean Hood cried Tuesday when informed he could live. "I just thank God," he said. "I just walk by my faith. If it didn't happen, I was going home to the Lord." State District Judge Curt Henderson did not give a reason for lifting the death warrant. He later recused himself from the case.

Computer expert: Briton searched for 'how to kill'

WOBURN, Mass. (AP)—A police detective testified Tuesday that a laptop computer taken from the home of a British man accused of killing his wife and 9-month-old daughter was used to search online for "how to kill with a knife" four days before the slayings. Medford police Detective Lawrence James, a computer expert, said the Google search was done on Jan. 16, 2006. Neil Entwistle has pleaded not guilty to murder charges stemming from the killing of his 27-year-old wife, Rachel, and their daughter, Lillian Rose, in their rented Hopkinton home on Jan. 20, 2006. The 29-year-old Entwistle told police he returned home from shopping to find the victims dead in a bed in the master bedroom. Prosecutors, however, sought to indicate that Entwistle was planning to kill his wife and child, saying that he researched methods of murder and suicide in the days before he fatally shot them.

Hundreds of same-sex couples wed across California

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Serenaded by a gay men's chorus, showered with rose petals and toasted with champagne, hundreds of tearful same-sex couples got married across the state Tuesday in what some are calling California's new Summer of Love.

Wearing everything from T-shirts to tuxedos and lavish gowns, they rushed down to county clerks' offices to obtain marriage licenses and exchange vows on the first full day that gay marriage became legal in California by order of the state's highest court. They were joined by jubilant crowds that came to witness the event.

George Takei, who played Sulu on the original "Star Trek," beamed as he and his partner of 21 years, Brad Altman, obtained one of the new gender-neutral marriage licenses—with the words "Party A" and "Party B" instead of "bride" and "groom"—at the West Hollywood City Hall. They are planning a September wedding.

"I see before me people who personify love and commitment," a grinning Takei told the crowd. He flashed the Vulcan hand salute from "Star Trek" and, in a twist on the Vulcan greeting from the TV series, said: "May equality live long and prosper."

AP

Sharon Papo, left, kisses her partner Amber Weiss, right, before their wedding at City Hall in San Francisco, Tuesday, June 17, 2008.

The burst of gay weddings actually began on Monday evening, when a few counties extended their office hours past 5 p.m., the moment the May 15 California Supreme Court ruling legalizing same-sex marriage took effect. On Tuesday morning, though, all 58 counties began issuing licenses, and the rush was on.

There were scattered demonstrations outside some offices and courthouses. About a dozen protesters stood across the street from the Sacramento County recorder's office, carrying signs that read, "Marriage 1 man + 1 woman" and "Resist Judicial Tyranny."

Obama rebukes McCain camp on terrorism criticism

WASHINGTON (AP)—A defiant Barack Obama said Tuesday he would take no lectures from Republicans on which candidate would keep the U.S. safer, a sharp rebuke to John McCain's aides who said the Democrat had a naive, Sept. 10 mind-set toward terrorism.

"These are the same guys who helped to engineer the distraction of the war in Iraq at a time when we could have pinned down the people who actually committed 9/11," the presumed nominee told reporters aboard his campaign plane. "This is the same kind of fear-mongering that got us into Iraq ... and it's exactly that failed foreign policy I want to reverse."

The rival camps engaged in a war of words Tuesday that echoed the 2004 presidential campaign in which President Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney and other Republicans argued that Democratic nominee John Kerry was soft on terror, a claim that resonated with voters and helped propel Bush to re-election. Democrats complained that the GOP was using the politics of fear.

The Republican argument proved less effective in 2006 when then Bush adviser Karl Rove said the Democrats had a pre-Sept. 11 view of the world and Republicans had a post-Sept. 11 terror attacks perspective. In November of that year, Democrats captured enough congressional seats to seize control of the House and Senate.

Asia

Abu Sayyaf frees kidnapped journalists

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Al-Qaida-linked militants freed a popular TV news anchor, her cameraman and a university professor late Tuesday, more than a week after snatching them in the volatile southern Philippines, police said.

The kidnappers, identified by police as Abu Sayyaf militants, released ABS-CBN anchor Ces Drilon and the two other captives on Jolo island around 11 p.m. following talks with negotiators, said Director Avelino Razon, the national police chief.

"Ces Drilon, Jimmy Encarnacion and Prof. (Octavio) Dinampo were freed," Razon told GMA television. "They were fetched at a designated place ... and are now in the house of Mayor (Alvarez) Isnaji."

Isnaji, mayor of Indanan township, helped negotiate with the kidnappers, who earlier demanded $337,000 in ransom. Razon said no ransom was paid and the release was a result of the negotiations.

The journalists were being taken to nearby Zamboanga city for medical exams and debriefing before flying to Manila, Razon added.

"We are thankful that our prayers have been answered and our efforts rewarded," said a joint statement by the journalists' families and ABS-CBN.

"We received a great outpouring of support from people all over the world who care for freedom. Their words of comfort and prayers guided and strengthened us throughout this ordeal," the statement said.

The kidnappers had threatened to behead the hostages if the ransom was not paid, one of the negotiators, Jun Isnaji, the mayor's son, told reporters on Jolo. But they postponed a noon deadline and agreed to continue talks, as the journalists' families made several tearful appeals on radio for the hostages to be freed.

He said he told the kidnappers that instead of a ransom they could be given funding for "livelihood projects," without specifying the nature of the projects. He did not say what their reaction was.

Taliban prepare for battle outside Kandahar

AP

A reinforcement Afghan soldier, right, prays before departure, as they wait at Kabul airport for taking flight to be transferred to Arghandab district where is partly controlled by the Taliban militants in Kandarhar province, south of Kabul, Afghanistan, Tuesday, June 17, 2008.

ARGHANDAB, Afghanistan (AP)—Taliban fighters destroyed bridges and planted mines after overrunning villages outside southern Afghanistan's largest city, Afghan officials and witnesses said. Hundreds of farm families fled while the Afghan army rushed in troops.

Afghanistan's Ministry of Defense said Tuesday that between 300 and 400 militants—many of them foreigners—took over the Arghandab region 10 miles northwest of Kandahar. But NATO disputed the account, saying its troops there saw no signs of a Taliban offensive.

Afghan officials, fearing a major battle, told residents to leave the area.

The Taliban have long sought to control Arghandab and the good fighting positions its pomegranate and grape groves offer. With control cemented, militants could cross the flat plains to make probing attacks into Kandahar, in possible preparation for an assault on their former stronghold.

The reported offensive on Monday came three days after a Taliban attack on Kandahar's prison that freed 400 insurgents.

However, NATO's International Security Assistance Force and the U.S.-led coalition offered a strikingly different picture of the Arghandab region than the one portrayed by Afghan officials. The U.S.-led coalition said in a statement that it had sent a patrol through Arghandab that met no resistance.

"Recent reports of militant control in the area appear to be unfounded," the statement said.

Coalition spokesman Capt. Christopher Colster said troops patrolled for about five hours on the west side of the Arghandab River—where Afghan officials say the militants are—but didn't make any contact with insurgents. The troops also didn't report seeing fleeing civilians, he said.

Indian army wants space program

NEW DELHI (AP)—India said that it needs a military space program to defend its satellites from threats like China's newly revealed ability to shoot down targets in orbit.

The comments by India's army chief raise the possibility of a regional race that could accelerate the militarization of space and heighten tensions between the Asian giants, who have been enjoying their warmest ties in decades.

India urgently needs to "optimize space applications for military purposes," Gen. Deepak Kapoor said Monday at a conference in New Delhi on using space for military purposes.

He noted that "the Chinese space program is expanding at an exponentially rapid pace in both offensive and defensive content." His remarks were first reported by The Indian Express newspaper and confirmed by the Defense Ministry's spokesman on Tuesday.

China destroyed one of its own defunct weather satellites with a ballistic missile in January, becoming the third country, after Russia and the U.S., to shoot down an object in orbit.

In February the United States shot down a satellite that it said posed a threat as it fell to Earth. Kapoor did not mention that, singling out China in a statement analysts said was designed to send a clear message to Beijing.

"In an unsubtle way this is related to China," said Ashok Mehta, a retired Indian army general and leading strategic analyst.

Japan hangs three convicted killers

TOKYO (AP)—One of Japan's most notorious serial killers, who murdered and mutilated four young girls and reportedly drank the blood of one of his victims, was executed Tuesday along with two convicted murders.

The hangings marked the acceleration of executions in Japan, where a pro-death penalty justice minister and rising fears over violent crime have boosted acceptance of capital punishment.

The three executions brought to 13 the number of death-row inmates hanged in the past six months under Justice Minister Kunio Hatoyama. By contrast, only one inmate was executed in all of 2005.

Tsutomu Miyazaki, 45, whose grisly killings of the girls, ages 4 to 7, in the late 1980s triggered calls for tighter restrictions on violent pornographic videos, was hanged at a detention center in Tokyo.

He burned the body of a 4-year-old and left her bones on her parents' doorstep. He also wrote letters to the media and victims' families taunting police. Japanese newspaper reports said he ate part of the hand of one of his victims and drank her blood. Miyazaki also was convicted of the abduction and sexual assault of a fifth girl.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Bandits abduct, release 25 in southern Philippines

KOLAMBUGAN, Philippines (AP)—A group of bandits abducted but later released about two dozen villagers whom they used "human shields" as they escaped with stolen horses and water buffaloes from a southern Philippine town Tuesday, the mayor said. Mayor Bertrand Lumaque said gunmen suspected to be members of a bandit gang called Tonda Group allegedly abducted a total of 25 residents from three remote village in Kolambugan township who had crossed their path as they made off with 10 horses and two water buffaloes they had stolen from farmers early Tuesday. Six of the hostages were able to escape and the gunmen were forced to release the rest of their captives 12 hours later as police pursued the group, Lumaque said.

High security for Olympic flame in western China

KASHGAR, China (AP)—Tight security surrounded the Olympic flame Tuesday as it began its journey through China's restive Muslim western region of Xinjiang. Security agents jogged on either side of torchbearers and hundreds of police and military watched subdued crowds as the flame wound its way through Xinjiang's capital of Urumqi. Although state media has warned of the threat from separatists they claim are linked with global terrorism, no disruptions were reported. On Wednesday, the flame travels to the ancient Silk Road city of Kashgar, where, unlike in Urumqi, immigrants from China's dominant Han ethnic group are a minority. On Tuesday night, Kashgar's streets were largely empty.

Ex-US health care exec gets 5 years for health fraud

MADISON, Wisconsin (AP)—A former health care executive was sentenced Tuesday to five years in prison for helping his Philippines-based company swindle nearly $100 million from the U.S. military health insurance program. Thomas Lutz, 41, said in federal court he took responsibility for the six-year scheme in which Health Visions Corp. bilked $99.9 million from the military's Tricare program through inflated and fraudulent claims. Health Visions and Lutz were initially charged in a 75-count indictment in 2005. He pleaded guilty in 2006 to a single count of conspiracy to pay kickbacks and agreed to cooperate with prosecutors, a deal Crabb called "a huge break" for Lutz.

Panda habitat damaged by China quake

BEIJING (AP)—At least 80 percent of the habitat for giant pandas in China's earthquake-hit province was destroyed or damaged, a forestry official said Tuesday. China's May 12 temblor centered in Sichuan devastated a vast area of wild habitat for endangered species, including the giant panda, Cao Qingyao, a spokesman for the State Forestry Administration, told reporters. The endangered panda is revered as a national symbol in China, where about 1,600 pandas live in the wild, mostly in Sichuan and the neighboring province of Shaanxi. Another 180 have been bred in captivity. Forty-nine nature reserves, including the popular Wolong Nature Reserve, were damaged throughout Sichuan, Cao said, making up 2 million acres.

World

Car bomb kills at least 51 in Baghdad

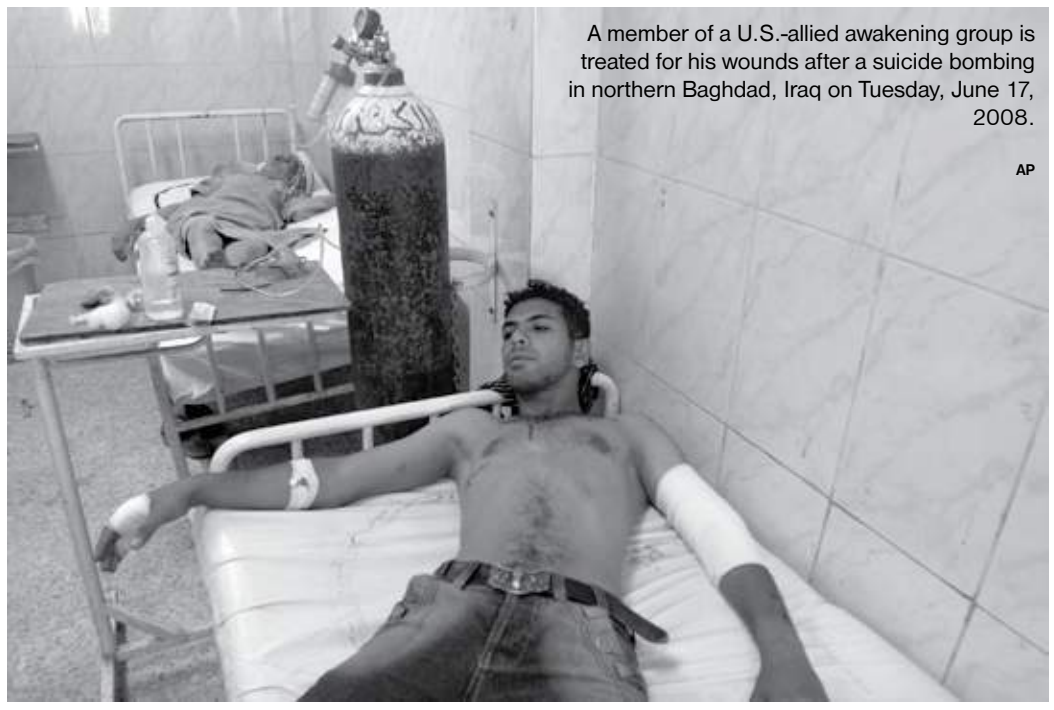
BAGHDAD (AP)—A car bomb ripped through a busy commercial street in a Shiite area of Baghdad on Tuesday, killing at least 51 people and wounding scores more in the deadliest blast in the capital in more than three months.

Many victims were trapped in their apartments by a raging fire that engulfed at least one building, according to police and Interior Ministry officials, who also said about 75 people were wounded. Stunned survivors stumbled through the rubble-strewn street, which was filled with the smoke from burning vehicles, witnesses said.

The attack shattered the relative calm in the capital since a May 11 cease-fire ended seven weeks of fighting between U.S. and Iraqi forces and Shiite militants in the Sadr City district. Ironically, it came the same day the Iraqi parliament announced plans to move outside the U.S.-protected Green Zone.

Angry survivors blamed the army and police for failing to protect them.

"The blast occurred because there wasn't any security presence by the Iraqi army or police at the scene, not even any checkpoint," said Khalid Hassan, 40, who suffered shrapnel wounds and burns. "People were confused, upset and running in all directions. We are all victims of terrorism and carelessness."



A member of a U.S.-allied awakening group is treated for his wounds after a suicide bombing in northern Baghdad, Iraq on Tuesday, June 17, 2008.

AP

The bomber struck about 5:45 p.m. near a market and bus stop in the Hurriyah district of west Baghdad, scene of some of the most horrific sectarian massacres during the wave of Sunni-Shiite slaughter in 2006.

Kamil Jassim, a witness, said the blast set fire to a generator used by residents and shopkeepers to supplement city power. The fire quickly spread to a two-story building containing both shops and apartments where many of the victims were found.

Haider Fadhil, a 25-year-old metal worker, said he was shopping with two friends when the blast hurled him to the ground.

Number of refugees worldwide rises to 11.4M

LONDON (AP)—Tents, sacks of food and a replica of a burnt-out village hut appeared in Trafalgar Square on Tuesday as a tourist hotspot became a refugee camp to highlight the plight of millions of people displaced in Darfur and elsewhere.

The display, set up to mark World Refugee Day this week, came as the U.N. refugee agency reported a record 11.4 million people were driven from their home countries last year.

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres said numbers were rising again after several years of decline in which refugees returned to countries including Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Angola.

"Now, unfortunately, with the multiplication of conflicts and the intensification of conflicts, the number is on the rise again," said Guterres, standing amid white U.N. tents erected in the square as part of the "Experience Darfur" exhibition.

"People being forced to move, unfortunately, will be one of the characteristics of the 21st century," he said.

In its annual report released Tuesday, the UNHCR said 11.4 million people were forced to leave their countries in 2007, compared to 9.9 million in 2006. Another 26 million were displaced within their own countries by conflict or persecution, up from 24.2 million the year before.

Nearly half the world's refugees are from war-torn Afghanistan and Iraq. UNHCR said there are 3.1 million displaced Afghans, most in neighboring Pakistan and Iran, and 2.3 million Iraqi refugees, mostly in Syria and Jordan. Another 2.4 million Iraqis are internally displaced, an increase of 600,000 since the start of 2007.

The number of internally displaced people grew last year in Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Yemen, as well as in the Central African Republic and Chad, where thousands of refugees have crossed the border from the Sudanese region of Darfur.

Up to 300,000 people have died and 2.5 million have been displaced since ethnic African tribesmen took up arms against Sudan's Arab-dominated government five years ago. The government is accused of responding by unleashing the tribal militia known as janjaweed, which have committed the worst atrocities against Darfur's local communities.

Hamas says Gaza cease-fire reached with Israel

JERUSALEM (AP)—The Gaza Strip's ruling Hamas militant group said Tuesday it has reached a cease-fire with Israel meant to halt a cycle of deadly Palestinian rocket attacks that rained hundreds of rockets on Israel in the past year and Israeli reprisals that have killed hundreds of Palestinians.

The accord, set to go into effect at 6 a.m. Thursday (11 p.m. EDT Wednesday), has the bigger aim of ending Israel's yearlong economic blockade of Gaza and bringing home a captive Israeli soldier.

But the phased approach is prone to pitfalls, and past truces have quickly broken down. Israel cautiously promised a "new reality" if the rocket fire ends.

The announcement capped months of Egyptian-brokered negotiations that have been repeatedly marred by violence. The deal was first announced in Cairo by Egypt's state-run news agency and quickly confirmed by Hamas. However, Hamas said it would respond to any Israeli attacks.

AP

Palestinians gather around the wreckage of a car carrying Palestinian militants that was hit in an Israeli missile strike in Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip,Tuesday, June 17, 2008.

Underscoring the fragile situation, Israeli aircraft attacked three targets in southern Gaza, killing six Palestinian militants, Gaza medical officials said. In response, Palestinian militants fired seven rockets into Israel, the Israeli military said.

Still, after months of fighting, both sides seemed interested in a period of calm.

Israel wants to halt the incessant rocket and mortar attacks on its southern communities that have killed seven Israelis over the past year. Israeli reprisals have killed more than 400 Palestinians, many of them civilians, according to an Associated Press tally based on figures from hospital officials.

Israel also wants an end to Hamas arms smuggling into Gaza from Egypt, and the return of Cpl. Gilad Schalit, the Israeli soldier captured by Hamas-linked militants in a cross-border raid two years ago.

Iran minors sentenced to death

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—Iran has sentenced 177 people under the age of 18 to death over the past decade and has executed nearly three dozen of them, a human rights group said Tuesday.

The International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran published on its Web site a list of the 114 minors who still remain in prison awaiting execution, some of whom are now older than 18. The youngest person on the list was a 12-year-old boy sentenced by a court in 2005. The group did not specify what crime he was convicted of.

Aaron Rhodes, a spokesman for the group in Vienna, Austria, said the campaign has called on the international community to take steps to press Iran to abolish the executions.

Rhodes said many of the death sentences were based on confessions obtained from defendants under torture or interrogations in which they had no access to a lawyer.

Iranian judiciary spokesman Alireza Jamshidi told reporters in Tehran on Thursday that "there are no executions of individuals under the age of 18 in Iran."

But Jamshidi made a distinction between death sentences and Islamic law of "qisas," or eye-for-eye retribution for murder, which he said the judiciary does implement. He said in cases of qisas for those under 18 years old, "the main approach of the judiciary ... is based on peace and compromise." Under Islamic law, an attempt is made to reach a settlement with the family of a murder victim, but if no agreement is reached, the killer is executed.

The International Campaign, which is based in New York and Vienna, said the list was compiled by Iranian rights activist Emad Baghi, who is serving a one-year prison sentence in connection with articles he wrote critical of the country's rights record.

WORLD BRIEFS

Video shows Castro talking with Chavez

HAVANA (AP)—Cuban television on Tuesday showed the first images of Fidel Castro in almost six months, broadcasting a silent video of the ailing revolutionary chatting in a garden with visiting Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. The 81-year-old Castro looked thinner, and his hair and beard appeared much whiter, in the new video, which did not include audio. But he nevertheless looked vigorous and animated as he talked with Chavez and younger brother Raul Castro. He wore in a white track-suit jacket with red and blue trim. The green of trees could be seen all around the trio in the video, but it was impossible to determine exactly where the meeting took place. It was the second meeting in as many days between the elder Castro and Chavez, who are close friends.

Guatemalan moms face agonizing decision

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)—The 24-year-old Guatemalan mother had already given up her baby once. Now, months later, the baby girl was back in her lap, smiling and playing with her mother's fingers. And Karen Donis had to make the decision all over again. The heart-wrenching process is part of a new Guatemalan government effort to ensure that mothers really wanted to give their babies up—and that children weren't bought or even stolen to be adopted to U.S. couples. Sitting on a plastic chair in a neon-lit room cuddling her 8-month-old daughter, Donis ached to keep the child. But she knew she could never give her the life she deserved. "I have turned the problem inside out, and I can't, I can't ... " said Donis, tears falling onto the girl. "I thought about keeping the baby, but I can't."

Radical preacher Abu Qatada freed on bail

LONDON (AP)—Radical preacher Abu Qatada, once called Osama bin Laden's "spiritual ambassador in Europe," was released on bail Tuesday in a court decision that dealt an embarrassing blow to the British government's anti-terror campaign. Home Secretary Jacqui Smith reacted by saying the government will protect national security and public safety, despite the unwanted release of Abu Qatada. She pledgED to try and overturn an April decision that prevented the British government from deporting the terror suspect back to Jordan, where he has been convicted of terror attacks dating back to 1998. She said that decision, which set in motion Abu Qatada's release on bail, would be appealed in the House of Lords, Britain's highest court.

US, activists decry Darfur 'failure'

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.S. presidential envoy to Sudan's troubled Darfur region joined activists Tuesday in blaming the world for failing to protect residents of the African nation from widespread violence. "All of us should be impatient. We have failed in our responsibility to the people of Sudan," Rich Williamson, President Bush's special envoy for Darfur since January, told a meeting with U.N. Security Council members. The United Nations so far has been unable to bring peace to Sudan or to prosecute its alleged war criminals, Williamson said. He pointed to Sudan's north-south civil war that ended in 2005, but only after it claimed 2 million lives and displaced millions of others.

Environment

The illegal use of 'derris' in fishing

By ROSEZONIA S. JACK
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Hafa Adai, everyone! My name is Rosezonia S. Jack. I was given an opportunity to pick a topic and write about it while I was a CNMI Coral Reef Initiative Summer Intern at Coastal Resources Management Office. My topic is the illegal use of derris, a chemical more technically known as rotenone. You all are probably wondering why I chose this topic. First and foremost, derris has been used on the islands to capture fish without using a spear or other fishing gear. Using the chemicals that are in derris, it kills/paralyzes the fish so that it is easier to catch. My question to the public would be, "Is derris really a threat to our CNMI marine environment?"

What is rotenone?

Rotenone is a naturally occurring chemical with bug and fish-killing properties, which is obtained from the roots of several tropical and subtropical plant species belonging to the genus Lonchocarpus or Derris. Commercial formulations are used in home gardens for insect control, for lice and tick control on pets and for fish eradications as part of water body management. Both a contact and stomach poison to insects, it kills them slowly, but causes them to stop their feeding almost immediately. It exerts its toxic action by acting as a general inhibitor of cellular respiration. (http://www.pan-uk.org/pestnews/Actives/rotenone.htm).

So why is derris illegal? For many years men have been fishing in our beautiful Saipan lagoon. Some men work hard to catch fish for their families and some do it the easier way. Derris is prohibited in taking any fish because it is said to kill not only the fish that are being targeted but other sea creatures as well and damage the actual environment the fish use as a home. On the other hand some say that it doesn't kill other sea creatures, just the fish. I interviewed some people about this particular root and this is what some had to say:

"Yes, they should keep it illegal because of the harmful things that occur when using this type of root," one man says. His advice to the public was: "If you see anyone using derris they should call DFW [Division of Fish and Wildlife] or DPS [Division of Public Safety] to handle the matter." He said that he has fished here so many times and never used derris. He'd rather fish the hard way because he thinks it is the right way to catch fish.

Another man said, "No, derris is not like Clorox that bleaches and kills the fish, the corals and other small creatures. Derris is natural, unlike Clorox, I've been fishing for many years using derris sometimes and it never killed any corals," one fisherman told me. "I tried coming back to the same rock that I used derris on and the corals are still alive," he added.

A hotel worker also had opinions to add. He said derris is not poison and does not kill the fish. This man tested the root on a fish and it didn't die. "It's not the derris that kills the fish, it's the people that kill fish." But still the man said that derris should not be used anyway as he thought that if derris was OK'd for use, people would abuse the fishing method.

The last person I interviewed was the owner of a marine sports operation, who said it is a "lazy way of fishing." He disagreed with the use of derris and hopes to see the law enforce this issue. "Sometimes when I go out fishing I find some empty bottles and ice keki tubes in the water… it just makes me wonder who is going to eat ice keki out there."

Based on people's opinions, it seems many are undecided about the effects of derris on the environment and I wanted to see if anyone ever did a scientific study on derris. In 1973 scientists from the Florida Department of Natural Resources Marine Research Laboratory did studies at Western Sambo, a fringing-barrier reef located south offshore of Boca Chica Key, a small island much like Mañagaha. The study showed certain species of coral were quickly and severely damaged by the rotenone derivative tested. Others took more than seven months to show any damage! This showed that derris not only kills/paralyzes fishes but also harms our coral reef, even if it might take awhile to see the damage to corals.

It takes years for coral to grow and create the beautiful environment we see today and for someone to just take that all away doesn't make sense. I'm not saying that I am against any fishermen catching fish! I'm asking anyone considering using it why they would destroy the very home fish need to live and reproduce in. I'm against the use of derris and the harm it can do to the coral environment. Any fisherman who uses any poisons of any sort should know that not only does its use violate DFW, CRM, and DEQ regulations, it destroys the environment as well. My advice to the public is "Don't use any sort of poison to catch any fish... Not only because it's wrong but because it's the LAW!"

Brigade collects 1.4K lbs of trash

Majority of the debris at Old Man by the Sea is plastic washed ashore. A total of 1,440 pounds were removed from this beach on June 7.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Some 1,440 pounds of debris was removed at the Cleanup Brigade held at Old Man by the Sea.

The monthly cleanup, spearheaded by the Division of Environmental Quality, attracted over 25 participants.

Brigade participants are recognized for their commitment. Volunteers who participate in at least ten (10) monthly cleanups in a given year receive a brigade cap and those who participate in at least three (3) cleanups receive a green brigade t-shirt.

DEQ recently awarded Atdao I. Rosario, a student at ChaCha Oceanview Junior High School, for his outstanding participation in the monthly brigade throughout the 2007.

"I am shocked to receive this award, said Rosario. "I joined the cleanups because I want to help clean our environment and to care for our beaches. I was not expecting to receive anything," he added.

DEQ rirector Frank M. Rabauliman presented the certificate of appreciation during the schools' commencement exercise. "I'm pleased to present Atdao Rosario a small token of thanks and hope that students will follow in his footsteps," said Rabauliman.

Individuals, schools, and community organizations can also help care for our natural resources by joining the monthly brigade or by participating in the adopt a beach program.

The DEQ cleanup brigade began in 1996 and is held on the first Saturday of each month at various beaches on Saipan.

Adopting a beach requires a four-cleanup per year commitment and DEQ provides trash bags and gloves for each cleanup. Those interested in adopting a beach need to complete a registration form, available online at www.deq.gov.mp. ***(DEQ)***

What is household hazardous waste?

Household hazardous wastes are leftover products that can poison living organisms. Waste can also be corrosive (eat away at surfaces, including skin) and flammable. Wastes can also be hazardous when they react violently when mixed with other agents or when placed under heat or pressure.

Examples of household hazardous wastes include:

- Cleaners
- Waxes
- Detergents
- Cosmetics
- Prescriptions
- Solvents
- Alkyd & Lead based paints
- Pesticides
- Oil & Grease
- Batteries

Why should we be concerned?

Many common household products contain hazardous chemicals. Once released into the environment, these substances may pose a serious threat to living organisms. Small quantities of hazardous substances can accumulate over time to reach dangerous levels and contaminate our air, water, and soil.

Others can have a more immediate and devastating effect, such as poisoning. Pesticides, fertilizers and other products can wash off lawns and gardens into storm drains and streams, polluting water.

Here are several types of hazardous waste found in homes. These must be placed out of the reach of children and away from food.

Chemicals from hazardous wastes buried in unsecured landfills (or in our backyards) can leach out and move through the soil, eventually entering ground water. Leaving chemicals in your garage or outside storage areas can also be dangerous if discovered by your children.

How do we dispose of our HHW?

Keep materials in their original containers, or ensure that the containers are clearly labeled. Please do not mix different products together and make sure the caps are tightly sealed. There is no charge for disposing your HHW, so bring them to the Lower Base Transfer Station (household items only). Most of the waste will be recycled into new products. The rest will be forwarded for safe disposal at the Marpi landfill.

What else can we do?

After taking the first step to properly dispose of our HHW, the next thing we can do is learn more about safer alternatives available for household cleaning, home improvement and garden care. Safe alternatives include baking soda, pure soap, white vinegar, borax, and washing soda. Baking soda is an excellent scouring powder, deodorizer, and water softener. White vinegar deodorizes and cuts grime and grease. Borax disinfects, cleans, and softens water. Washing soda removes stains, disinfects, and cuts grease.

There are other things we can do too:

Be a wise consumer - buy only the amount of product you need.

If you do use a hazardous product, make sure to use it all up.

If you cannot use the entire product, give the leftovers to someone who can.

http://www.govlink.org/hazwaste/house/index.cfm

DID YOU KNOW?

Used oil from one oil change can contaminate 1 million gallons of water? One Gallon of used oil spilled can pollute up to 2 million gallons of water.

BE SAFE. DUMP OIL. PROPERLY!

On June 21, all households may dispose of their used oil at the Lower Base Transfer Station.

From 8am-5pm, all households with used oil and other hazardous wastes can properly dispose

If you are one of the many people who change their own motor oil, you too need to know how to properly dispose of the used oil.

Why only used oil?

Used motor oil is insoluble, persistent and can contain toxic chemicals and heavy metals. Oil is also slow to degrade and sticks to everything from beach sand to bird feathers. Used oil is a major source of oil contamination of waterways and can result in pollution of drinking water sources.

Life & Style

'Oz,' '2001,' 'Vertigo' among AFI top films

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Snow White, Dorothy Gale, the HAL 9000 computer, Charles Chaplin's Little Tramp and Marlon Brando's Godfather share top billing among the American Film Institute's best genre movies.

Films featuring those characters were among the No. 1 picks Tuesday on the AFI's top-10 lists of the finest flicks in 10 genres, including mystery, Westerns, sports tales and courtroom dramas.

The winners included "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" for animation; "The Wizard of Oz," featuring Dorothy and her little dog, for fantasy; "2001: A Space Odyssey," with HAL the demented computer, for science fiction; Chaplin's "City Lights" for romantic comedy; and Brando's "The Godfather" for gangster flicks.

The other No. 1 movies: Westerns, "The Searchers"; sports, "Raging Bull"; courtroom drama, "To Kill a Mockingbird"; epics, "Lawrence of Arabia"; and mysteries, "Vertigo."

Not surprisingly, Alfred Hitchcock dominated the mystery category. Besides "Vertigo," he landed three others on that top-10 list: "Rear Window" at No. 3, "North By Northwest" at No. 7 and "Dial M for Murder" at No. 9.

Chaplin's "City Lights" from 1931, one of only two silent films to make the genre lists, was a surprise, beating such popular modern romances as "Annie Hall" (No. 2), "When Harry Met Sally ..." (No. 6) and "Sleepless in Seattle" (No. 10).

"This is why these shows are so important. They keep these films in the cultural conversation," said Bob Gazzale, AFI president. "When `City Lights' is honored as the No. 1 romantic comedy, millions of people will go back and watch it again."

The best genre movies were announced in the CBS special "AFI's 10 Top 10," the latest in the institute's annual best-of shows. The winners were chosen by actors, filmmakers, critics and others in Hollywood from ballots that included 50 nominees in each genre.

Past AFI lists have included rankings of the top-100 American films, comedies, love stories, screen stars and movie quotes.

Walt Disney ruled the animation category. Trailing 1937's "Snow White," the first feature-length animated film, in the top five were the Disney tales "Pinocchio," "Bambi," "The Lion King" and "Fantasia."

Two Disney-Pixar computer-animated comedies made the list, "Toy Story" at No. 6 and "Finding Nemo" at No. 10. The only non-Disney cartoon was "Shrek" at No. 8.

Some filmmakers were confined to their best-known specialties, such as Hitchcock in mysteries and "The Searchers" director John Ford in Westerns. Others landed films in several genres.

Steven Spielberg had Nos. 3 and 8 among epics with "Schindler's List" and "Saving Private Ryan" and No. 3 among sci-fi movies with "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial." Besides "2001," Stanley Kubrick had the No. 4 sci-fi tale with "A Clockwork Orange" and the No. 5 epic with "Spartacus."

Along with "Raging Bull" in sports, Martin Scorsese was on the gangster list with "Goodfellas" at No. 2.

Some actors crossed genre boundaries, too. James Stewart popped up in four categories: Fantasy with "It's a Wonderful Life" (No. 3) and "Harvey" (No. 7); romantic comedy with "The Philadelphia Story" (No. 5); courtroom drama with "Anatomy of a Murder" (No. 7); and mystery with two Hitchcock flicks, "Vertigo" and "Rear Window."

Tom Hanks also made four genres: Fantasy with "Big" (No. 10); romantic comedy with "Sleepless in Seattle"; epics with "Saving Private Ryan"; and animation with "Toy Story," for which he provided lead vocals.

Diane Keaton had films in three categories: Gangster flicks with the two "Godfather" movies (Part II was No. 3 on the list); epics with "Reds" (No. 9); and romantic comedy with "Annie Hall."

Major movie franchises were snubbed as fantasy nominees "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban," "Spider-Man 2," "Batman" and "Superman" failed to make the cut.

Such popular Westerns as "Dances With Wolves" and "The Magnificent Seven" were excluded, while best-picture winners "Chariots of Fire" and "Million Dollar Baby" landed outside the top-10 in the sports category.

Gazzale said part of the fun of the film lists is the debate they prompt over which movies are included and omitted.

"These countdowns are a collective opinion of leaders from across the film community. Any surprise about an omission would be entirely subjective," Gazzale said.

AP

In this file photo, Gregory Peck is shown as attorney Atticus Finch, a small-town Southern lawyer who defends a black man accused of rape, in a scene from the 1962 movie "To Kill a Mockingbird." The film is among the American Film Institute's best courtroom drama movies.

After Craig Seymour took it all off, he wrote it all down

By GABE OPPENHEIM
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Before Washington leveled one neighborhood's gay clubs for a stadium, when men could get up close and sweaty together without being in the Nationals lineup, Craig Seymour, 39, took the stage in a G-string. A PhD student (ital) and (end ital) stripper. This fall, he joins the journalism faculty at Northern Illinois University. He discusses "All I Could Bare," his memoir of disrobing.

Q: Why stripping?

A: I always wanted to be a writer, but taking the risk as a stripper allowed me to take risks in other parts of my life. ... The (Washington) Post sent me (on a freelance assignment) to New York to interview Mariah Carey. I hadn't even been writing for a year, and all of a sudden I had to do this huge feature on one of the biggest pop stars in the world. Once you can stand on a bar naked in front of complete strangers, that gives you the confidence to stand in front of one of the biggest singers.

Q: There are other things you can do to lose fear.

A: I wouldn't put stripping on the curriculum for J-school. That was just part of my journey. That happened to be the thing I needed. The better solution perhaps is just to take chances all along the way. I think I had made so many safe decisions in my life, I needed a big decision like stripping. ... I went into stripping for all the wrong reasons. I went into it because I actually thought it would help me make peace around the issues I had with body image. That's the worst thing you can ever do because you're never gonna feel comfortable with something you're putting out in front of you for people to barter on.

Q: Do you still patronize this world?

A: Let's say you played college football. You might play a pick-up game. If you're an athlete, you can always understand the psyche of people that go into sports. Me having this experience in this world, I can still relate to the psyche of people who go to these clubs. I still like, occasionally, to hit up a strip club. It's a familiar world.

Q: How is teaching similar to stripping?

A: I'm not trying to manipulate them to get something out of them, which is what you do in stripping or interviewing. I don't see (teaching) as a performance. My class is very improvisational.

After Craig Seymour took it all off, he wrote it all down. The result is "All I Could Bare," his memoir of disrobing.
THE WASHINGTON POST

Actress-dancer Cyd Charisse dies in L.A. at 86

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Cyd Charisse, the long-legged Texas beauty who danced with the Ballet Russe as a teenager and starred in MGM musicals with Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly, died Tuesday. She was 86.

Charisse was admitted to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center on Monday after suffering an apparent heart attack, said her publicist, Gene Schwam.

She appeared in dramatic films, but her fame came from the Technicolor musicals of the 1940s and 1950s.

Classically trained, she could dance anything, from a pas de deux in 1946's "Ziegfeld Follies" to the lowdown Mickey Spillane satire of 1956's "The Band Wagon" (with Astaire).

She also forged a popular song-and-dance partnership on television and in nightclub appearances with her husband, singer Tony Martin.

Her height was 5 feet, 6 inches, but in high heels and full-length stockings, she seemed serenely tall, and she moved with extraordinary grace. Her flawless beauty and jet-black hair contributed to an aura of perfection that Astaire described in his 1959 memoir, "Steps in Time," as "beautiful dynamite."

Charisse

Charisse arrived at MGM as the studio was establishing itself as the king of musicals. Three producers—Arthur Freed, Joe Pasternak and Jack Cummings—headed units that drew from the greatest collection of musical talent. Dancers, singers, directors, choreographers, composers, conductors and a symphony-size orchestra were under contract and available. The contract list also included the screen's two greatest male dancers: Astaire and Kelly.

Astaire, who danced with her in "The Band Wagon" and "Silk Stockings," said of Charisse in a 1983 interview: "She wasn't a tap dancer, she's just beautiful, trained, very strong in whatever we did. When we were dancing, we didn't know what time it was."

She first gained notice as a member of the famed Ballet Russe, and got her start in Hollywood when star David Lichine was hired by Columbia Pictures for a ballet sequence in a 1943 Don Ameche-Janet Blair musical, "Something to Shout About."

Although that film failed to live up to its title, its ballet sequence attracted wide notice, and Charisse (then billed as Lily Norwood) began receiving movie offers.

"I had just done that number with David as a favor to him," she said in "The Two of Us," her 1976 double autobiography with Martin. "Honestly, the idea of working movies had never once entered my head. I was a dancer, not an actress. I had no delusions about myself. I couldn't act—I had never acted. So how could I be a movie star?"

She overcame her doubts and signed a seven-year contract at MGM. She also got a new name, the exotic "Cyd" instead of her lifelong nickname Sid, to go with her first husband's last name.

Lil Wayne's 'Tha Carter III' sells 1 million

NEW YORK (AP)—Lil Wayne now has official numbers to back up his bragging—the rapper's new CD has sold a spectacular 1 million copies its first week.

"Tha Carter III" is easily the best selling first week of the year, according to Nielsen SoundScan figures. Even Kanye West's "The Graduation" didn't eclipse that mark in its first week last year (though it was only about 50,000 copies short).

A prolific rapper who's been ubiquitous on the mixtape scene and on other acts' records, Lil Wayne is generally regarded as one of rap's most gifted performers—but he's never had a multiplatinum album. His last two albums, "Tha Carter" and "Tha Carter II," sold 1.1 million and 1.4 million copies, respectively. "Tha Carter III" was anticipated as the CD that would send the New Orleans rapper into superstardom.

Already, he's had a No. 1 smash for several weeks—the sexually explicit "Lollipop"—and has been featured on numerous hits over the past year, including the recent remix to Usher's "Love in This Club."

AP

In this June 10, 2008 file photo, rapper Lil' Wayne makes an appearance on MTV's "Total Request Live" show at MTV Studios in Times Square in New York.

In a slumping industry where selling 200,000 albums in one week is becoming a rare feat, Lil Wayne's achievement is not only a triumph but a much-needed boost—the last CD to sell 1 million or more in its first week was 50 Cent's "The Massacre" in 2005.

Expectations for "Tha Carter III" were high, and it delivered—selling 423,000 copies in its first day of release. It achieved blockbuster numbers despite being heavily bootlegged and leaked on the Internet; past leaks of material for the CD caused Lil Wayne's label, Universal Motown, to delay its release several times.

Cyrus says he was surprised by Vanity Fair photo

NEW YORK (AP)—Billy Ray Cyrus says he wasn't around when Annie Leibovitz photographed his 15-year-old daughter, Miley, wrapped in a sheet with her back exposed, for the June issue of Vanity Fair magazine.

"I wasn't there at the time," the 46-year-old country star said in an interview Tuesday on NBC's "Today" show.

"(Miley's) publicist was there, and everyone seemed in control," he said. "I didn't know they (were) gonna strip her down and wrap her with a blanket."

"So I was surprised when I saw it, you know, but ... stuff happens. That's life. Things happen and sometimes things get a little out of control and you just gotta deal with life," he said. "Again, it's peaks and valleys and ups and downs."

AP

In this April 14, 2008 file photo, Miley Cyrus and her father Billy Ray Cyrus pose in the press room at the 2008 CMT Awards in Nashville, Tenn.

Cyrus, who co-stars with Miley in Disney Channel's "Hannah Montana," said Leibovitz was a "good person and a great photographer" but looking back, he would have stayed to chaperone the photo shoot.

Another photo in the Vanity Fair spread that caused a stir was the image of Miley in a black tank top that revealed her midriff as Cyrus held her in his arms.

When asked if that photo was a mistake, Cyrus said: "It's not a mistake to me. If it is to someone else, I'm sorry if I offended somebody, but no, that's just a daddy that loves his daughter a whole lot."

Cyrus said he and Miley "got caught up in this adventure that we've gone through with this dream, and what we do for a living. ... We both love acting, we love making music and we love each other. I'm her dad and she's my daughter, so if a daddy hasn't hugged his daughter recently, I'd recommend he does."

De Niro testifies in NYC hotel dispute

NEW YORK (AP)—Robert De Niro's planned $43 million hotel in downtown Manhattan features a handmade brick exterior, Carrara marble bathtubs—and a luxurious penthouse, which has raised the hackles of preservationists who say he flouted the rules with that top-floor suite.

The penthouse atop the seven-story hotel does not match the design that the New York Landmarks Preservation Commission approved in 2004, and the panel held a hearing Tuesday on whether De Niro and his partners should remove the rooftop suite—at an estimated cost of $1.5 million—and start over.

De Niro appeared at the hearing, imploring commission members to give him the benefit of the doubt for any mistakes made in the project.

De Niro

"We worked on this project a long time to make it as good as we could make it," the "Raging Bull" and "Goodfellas" star testified. "We did it so it would fit into the neighborhood. ... If there are any minor mistakes, my apologies for it, because in any creation there are mistakes."

The hotel is the latest addition to De Niro's growing real estate empire that includes restaurants, hotels and his Tribeca Film Center. The 88-room Greenwich hotel, where rooms start at $625 a night, opened on April 1.

Neighbors including actor-director Ed Burns told commissioners the hotel does indeed fit into the surrounding historic district.

"For me as a lay person, the architecture is beautiful," said Burns, who lives across the street from the hotel.

But Nadezhda Williams of the Historic Districts Council said the penthouse is 1,100 square feet bigger than what the commission approved, sports a mansard roof instead a sloping hipped roof and has decorative details that make it appear "more residential and fussy" than nearby industrial structures.

Lake fires back at AMA for childbirth statement

NEW YORK (AP)—Ricki Lake is firing back at a physician's group that singled her out for bringing attention to at-home baby births.

The 39-year-old former talk-show host is named in a recent statement by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists that says the home is not the safest setting for giving birth.

Lake

In her film "The Business of Being Born," a documentary about the maternity care system that premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival, Lake is shown giving birth in the bathtub of her Manhattan apartment to her second son Owen, who turns 7 on Wednesday.

The ACOG statement, supported in a resolution Tuesday by the American Medical Association, said, "There has been much attention in the media by celebrities having home deliveries," citing a "Today Show" headline that read "Ricki Lake takes on the baby birthing industry: Actress and former talk show host shares her at-home delivery in her new film."

"It's scary that both (the ACOG and the AMA) have sort of targeted me," Lake told The Associated Press on Tuesday. "And, you know, I'm all about choice. This is not unlike the abortion issue. I am pro-choice when it comes to childbirth and choices in birth. Home birth was around long before hospitals were taking over—and I just think women need to know (the information) so that they can make the best choice for them."

The AMA resolves in the statement to support state legislation "that helps ensure safe deliveries and healthy babies by acknowledging that the safest setting" is a hospital, connected birthing center or other approved facility.

"There's a lot of provocative things that are said in the film," she said, "but I think it's very clear that we need doctors, we need the care and the technology that we have. But we also need to value the process of giving birth normally."

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Incredible Hulk

Fri and Sat 1:25 4:00 7:00 9:50
Sun - Thurs 1:25 4:00 7:00

Edward Norton, Liv Tyler
Action, Adaptation • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

In this new beginning, scientist Bruce Banner desperately hunts for a cure to the gamma radiation that poisoned his cells and unleashes the unbridled force of rage within him: The Hulk. Living in the shadows—cut off from a life he knew and the woman he loves, Betty Ross—Banner struggles to avoid the obsessive pursuit of his nemesis, General Thunderbolt Ross, and the military machinery that seeks to capture him and brutally exploit his power. As all three grapple with the secrets that led to The Hulk's creation, they are confronted with a monstrous new adversary known as The Abomination, whose destructive strength exceeds even The Hulk's own.

The Happening

Fri and Sat 1:10 4:30 7:20 9:35
Sun - Thurs 1:10 4:30 7:20

Mark Wahlberg, John Leguizamo
Action, Thriller • Rated R

Synopsis

It begins with no clear warning. It seems to come out of nowhere. In a matter of minutes, episodes of strange, chilling deaths that defy reason and boggle the mind in their shocking destructiveness, erupt in major American cities. What is causing this sudden, total breakdown of human behavior? Is it some kind of new terrorist attack, an experiment gone wrong, a diabolical toxic weapon, an out-of-control virus? Is it being transmitted by air, by water--how? For Philadelphia high school science teacher Elliot Moore what matters most is finding a way to escape the mysterious and deadly phenomenon.

★ ★ ★

Kung Fu Panda

Fri and Sat 1:05 4:20 7:30 9:30
Sun - Thurs 1:05 4:20 7:30

Jack Black (v), Dustin Hoffman (v)
Comedy, Action, Animation • Rated PG

The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian

Fri and Sat 1:15 4:10 7:10 10:05
Sun - Thurs 1:15 4:10 7:10

Peter Dinklage, Liam Neeson
Adventure, Fantasy • Rated PG

Indiana Jones: Kingdom of the Crystal Skull

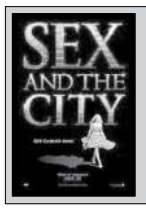
Fri and Sat 1:30 4:25 7:15 10:00
Sun - Thurs 1:30 4:25 7:15

Harrison Ford, Cate Blanchett
Action Adventure • Rated PG-13

You Don't Mess with the Zohan

Fri and Sat 1:20 4:05 7:25 9:40
Sun - Thurs 1:20 4:05 7:25

Adam Sandler, Rob Schneider
Action, Comedy • Rated PG-13



Sex and The City

Fri and Sat @ 4:15 @ 9:45
Sun - Thurs @ 4:15 @

Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall
Comedy, Romance • Rated R

Iron Man

Fri and Sat 1:00 @ 7:05 @
Sun - Thurs 1:00 @ 7:05

Robert Downey Jr., Gwyneth Paltrow
Action Adventure • Rated PG-13

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Ludacris is busy building his resume

NEW YORK (AP)—Ludacris is following the footsteps of P. Diddy and Jay-Z with a laundry list of projects, including a Web site, acting gigs and a show on the Planet Green network.

"It's my responsibility with the power that I have to show different sides of myself, not only my freedom of speech," the 30-year-old rapper told The Associated Press in a recent interview.

Ludacris, who is based in Atlanta, recently launched We-Mix.com, where aspiring musicians can upload material, collaborate with others and receive feedback.

"This is a site where you can get your music heard," he said. "You put your original music on here, you can get feedback, and this is a new way for music industry executives to sit in the comfort of their own homes and look for artists."

The Grammy winner said he remembers how hard it was "trying to get into the music game myself."

"What's most important is that they don't have any pressure from the outside world; they can (upload) their original content with no one telling them how their music should be," he said.

Ludacris, whose real name is Christopher Bridges, said he's found country and alternative artists he may add to his Disturbing tha Peace imprint, distributed by Def Jam Recordings. "We're actually looking to sign some artists from the site already," he said.

He added: "I do feel that now there are alternative ways of making money. You've got touring, ringtones these days, so everything balances itself. As long as we continue to put out good, solid music, we'll sell records."

Meanwhile, Ludacris and Tommy Lee will star in Planet Green's "Battleground Earth," a series of competitions between the rapper and the rocker to determine who's the greenest.

"Tommy Lee and myself were two people who didn't have that much knowledge of being eco-friendly at first," he said. "I signed on because I wanted to learn (and) teach others."

"We're learning about alternative fuels, recycling, solar panels, eco-barrels, everything that you could possibly imagine to try and save the planet," he said.

Ludacris—whose screen credits include "Crash" and "Hustle & Flow"—also appears in several upcoming films, including "Max Payne," starring Mark Wahlberg, and "RocknRolla," directed by Guy Ritchie.

His new CD, "Theater of the Mind," is slated for release in September.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Bush attends wake for newsman Tim Russert

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush and his wife, Laura, went to a wake for Tim Russert, the television newsman who died last Friday.

Bush and his wife rode in a short, unmarked motorcade to St. Albans School in Northwest Washington, where the wake was being held Tuesday in the refectory.

White House press secretary Dana Perino said that Bush wanted to pay his respects and offer his deepest sympathies to the Russert family.

The funeral for the 58-year-old of NBC's "Meet the Press" is scheduled to take place Wednesday.

Court delays action on Britney Spears' finances

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It will be a bit longer before the court begins to sort out Britney Spears' finances.

A Los Angeles court commissioner on Tuesday delayed a trial on whether the singer's father will continue to have control over his daughter's money. It was scheduled to begin on July 31, but attorneys still have to work out a number of issues.

The 26-year-old's finances and personal affairs have been under the control of her father for several months. Neither Spears or her father attended Tuesday's hearing.

Attorneys and Commissioner Reva Goetz met for more than an hour behind closed doors. Both sides have until next month to file information about Spears' finances and mental health.

Contributing to the delay: the pop star remains on vacation and can't participate until next week.

George Carlin to receive Mark Twain humor prize

WASHINGTON (AP)—George Carlin will be awarded the 11th annual Mark Twain Prize for American Humor.

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts announced Tuesday that Carlin will be honored for his 50-year career as a Grammy-winning standup comedian, writer and actor. The center will salute Carlin at a tribute performance by former colleagues November 10th, which will be broadcast later on PBS.

Kennedy Center Chairman Stephen Schwarzman says Carlin makes people laugh but also makes them think.

Carlin, 71, has released 22 solo albums and three best-selling books. He starred a variety of TV and movie roles and is famous for his "Seven Words You Can Never Say On TV" routine.

Last year the Kennedy Center honored Billy Crystal with the Mark Twain prize. Other past recipients include Whoopi Goldberg, Neil Simon and Steve Martin.

Joan Rivers booted from British TV over curse word

LONDON (AP)—Joan Rivers' salty tongue got her booted from a British daytime talk show in the middle of its live broadcast.

Rivers used two expletives while talking about Russell Crowe as a guest host on the live gab-fest "Loose Women." She was asked to leave during a commercial break.

The 75-year old comedian said in a statement Tuesday she was sorry for the swearing, and assumed that a censor would be able to "bleep" the words out.

Then she cracked wise, saying the incident reminded her of her wedding night—because she was asked to leave in the middle of that, too.

Toby Keith fundraiser brings in $709,000

NORMAN, Okla. (AP)—Toby Keith's annual fundraiser for families of children with cancer raised $709,000 this year.

The money goes to Ally's House, a charity started after original band member Scott Webb's 2-year-old daughter, Allison, died of kidney cancer in 2003. The charity provides for families' needs, such as prescriptions, rent or mortgage payments, utilities and gasoline and hopes to eventually build a center near an Oklahoma City hospital to provide lodging.

Five years of private concerts, auctions and golf tournaments have raised more than $2.3 million.

About 750 celebrities and guests attended the private concert, party and auction earlier this month. Two dinners with Keith sold for $35,000 apiece, and a chance to ride on the boat named Northwestern from Discovery Channel's "Deadliest Catch" fetched $27,500.

AP

This is a Monday, April 14, 2008 file photo of Toby Keith as he arrives at the CMT Music Awards, in Nashville, Tenn.

The opportunity to be in one of the 46-year-old singer-songwriter's music videos brought in a donation of $25,000.

LICENSE TO WED AP

Actor George Takei, left, and his partner Brad Altman sign documents as they get their marriage certificate permit in West Hollywood, Calif., Tuesday, June 17, 2008. Takei is ready to "live long and prosper" with his partner of 21 years. Takei will marry the 54-year-old Altman on Sept. 14 in Los Angeles. The 71-year-old actor, known for his role as Sulu on the "Star Trek" sci-fi TV series, was the first to pay $70 for a marriage license in West Hollywood early Tuesday. The marriage license is good for 90 days. Takei was jubilant, saying "it's going to be the only day like this in our lives and it is the only day like this in the history of America."

Defender of tobacco use is merely blowing smoke

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: The letter from "Not Ready to Kick the Butts in Kenosha" (April 13), the smoker asking how to respond to people who lectured him/her about quitting, had ME "smoking." "Not Ready" said it's none of their business. And, with reservations, you agreed.

This is a common argument used by many addicts, whether their substance of choice is tobacco, alcohol, cocaine, heroin or food. Consider this: The "Not Readys" will turn 65 -- if they're lucky -- and go on Medicare, or they may wind up on disability or Medicaid before age 65 because of the choices they claim are nobody else's business.

Please tell me if you think you'll ever receive letters signed "Not Ready to Get a Disability Check Every Month Because I Won't Quit," or "Not Ready to Let Everybody Else Pay 80 Percent of My $276,000 Hospital Bill," or "Not Ready to Let Everyone Else Pay $1,500 a Month for My Oxygen and Medications."

DR. STEVEN IN RENO

DEAR DR. STEVEN: I doubt I'll get many -- or any. While I agree with you, you should know that the letter from "Not Ready to Kick the Butts" inflamed the emotions of smokers and non-smokers alike. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I was surprised at your reply to "Not Ready." It was rude and judgmental, and you owe that writer an apology. As a former smoker, I think (s)he has every right to smoke. Everyone at this point knows the risks. Smokers are behaving respectfully by smoking outside and away from non-smokers. The final sentence of your "advice"—to "try not to breathe on them because it could be hazardous to their health"—was out of line.

CHRISTINA IN NOBLE, OKLA.

DEAR ABBY: People with an allergy to tobacco don't have to be exposed to the smoke itself, or even be able to smell the cigarette to have an adverse reaction. My ex-boyfriend was a secret smoker. He would have a single cigarette outside work in the late morning, wash his hands thoroughly, then go out with me at night. Every single time, within minutes of sitting next to him, my asthma would flare up enough to require me to use my inhaler.

Anyone who sits within 3 feet of a smoker for the rest of the day is exposed. And when you consider people with asthma, cystic fibrosis or other lung disorders, the smoker's personal choices are NOT limited to just his/her own health.

SENSITIVE TO SMOKE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR ABBY: As I sit here, sadly watching my husband of 42 years waste away from the ravages of tobacco, I wish "Not Ready" lived here. I'd invite that person to sit with me and watch the chemicals from the chemo drip into his arm, with the follow-up nausea, rash, hair loss and fatigue.

My husband smoked for 30 years, but quit 34 years ago. The doctors say his disease began when he took that first puff.

JUDI IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR ABBY: All smokers know the effects of smoking, and as long as we choose to do it, IT'S OUR CHOICE. We are lectured every day about it. "Not Ready" was being respectful, so why can't non-smokers reciprocate and leave us smokers alone? The help is out there if we choose to seek it.

STILL SMOKING IN IOWA

DEAR ABBY: A chain-smoking Marine Corps gunnery sergeant once told me: "Anyone can quit smoking. It takes a REAL man to risk lung cancer."

MARSHALL IN VIENNA, VA.

DEAR MARSHALL: And where is that Marine today?

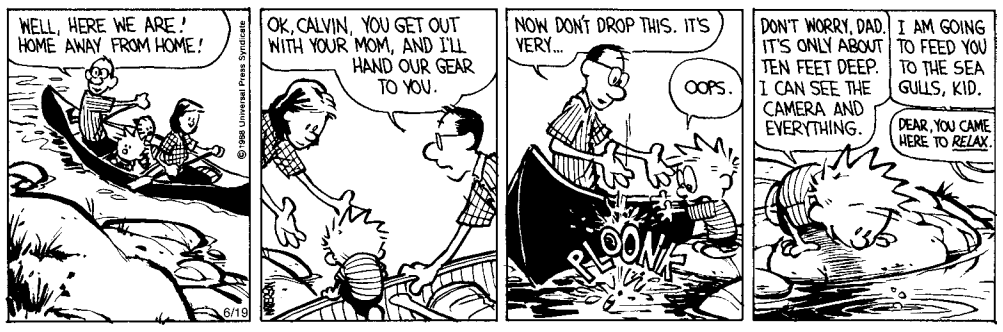
■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WELL, HERE WE ARE! HOME AWAY FROM HOME!
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6/19
OK, CALVIN, YOU GET OUT WITH YOUR MOM, AND I'LL HAND OUR GEAR TO YOU.
NOW DON'T DROP THIS. IT'S VERY...
OOPS.
PLOONK
DON'T WORRY, DAD. IT'S ONLY ABOUT TEN FEET DEEP. I CAN SEE THE CAMERA AND EVERYTHING.
I AM GOING TO FEED YOU TO THE SEA GULLS, KID.
DEAR, YOU CAME HERE TO RELAX.

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By Jim Davis

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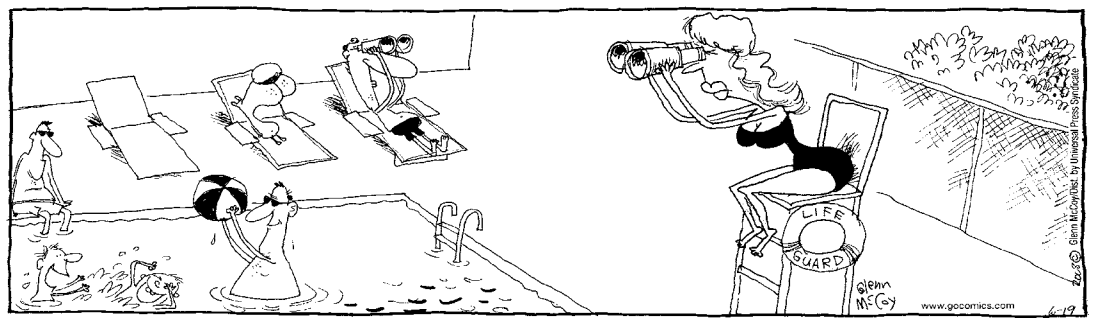
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

DAD, YOU'RE NOT SERIOUSLY GOING TO TAKE US TO THE POOL WITH LEGS THAT WHITE, ARE YOU?
GEE, I GUESS I DIDN'T MAKE WORKING ON MY TAN AS HIGH A PRIORITY AS I SHOULD HAVE.
GROSS! WHAT'S WRONG WITH DAD'S LEGS?! IS IT CONTAGIOUS?!
C'MON, IN THE CAR.
BRIAN BASSET
6/19

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Robert of "Airplane!"
5 Frenzied
8 Existence (Latin)
12 Tournament format
13 "The Greatest"
14 Nerdy sort
15 Norway's capital
16 Thing, in law
17 Merriment
18 Crime
20 Groundless rumor
22 Homer's interjection
23 Present
24 Urban fleet
27 Yanks at Fenway, e.g.
32 Melody
33 Director Howard
34 Uncivilized
35 Some oceanic biota
38 Rim
39 "How — love thee?"
40 Listending abbr.
42 "In Cold Blood" author
45 Deodorant type
49 "Exodus" author
50 Old wire service
52 Verdi opera
53 Nibble
54 Sinbad's flier
55 Enrages
56 Diner sign
57 Have bills
58 Impetuous

DOWN
1 Horseshoe site
2 Church area
3 Scream
4 Hairnets
5 "Entertainment Tonight" co-host
6 Pub request
7 Frisbee, e.g.
8 Yuletide quaff
9 She plays Dr. House's ex
10 Crystal gazer
11 Supplemented, with "out"
19 "Out of the question"
21 Whatever number
24 Upper limit
25 Be below par
26 "Fight Club" actor
28 Court
29 Lestat's creator
30 Periodical
31 Lamb's mama
36 Some loops
37 Set of pieces
38 Elongated cream puff
41 Infinitive indicator
42 Rubik's baffler
43 Met melody
44 Italian money, today ...
46 ... and yesterday
47 Rhyming tributes
48 Doggerelist Odgen
51 "Bam!"

Solution time: 25 mins.

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A	M	A	T	■	P	O	I	■	N	E	A	T
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A	R	E	N	A	■	■	G	L	E	N	D	A
■	■	■	C	R	O	W	■	A	L	P	■	■
J	A	P	E	■	D	I	A	Z	■	O	D	D
I	L	O	■	T	I	T	L	E	■	L	E	I
G	E	L	■	O	N	C	E	■	D	E	E	P
■	■	E	A	R	■	H	E	A	R	■	■	■
B	O	S	N	I	A	■	■	P	A	S	T	A
A	N	T	E	■	S	T	A	R	W	A	R	S
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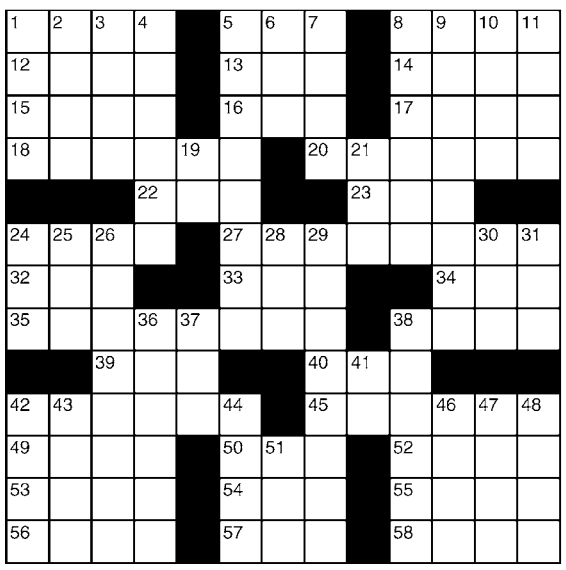
S	O	R	T	■	Y	A	M	■	R	E	E	F

Yesterday's answer 6-19



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Zoe Saldana, 30; Brian "Head" Welch, 38; Paula Abdul, 46; Kathleen Turner, 54

Happy Birthday: Rethink your direction, strategy and motives. If something you have been working on is standing still, turn your attention to something that can be accomplished. Love is in the stars and a commitment can be made to help you develop a stronger, more stable partnership. Taking an unusual approach to achieving your goals will draw attention to your cause and favors will be granted that will lead to your success. Your numbers are 5, 19, 22, 28, 33, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Someone will do something to get an emotional rise out of you. Don't give in to pressure being put on you by someone who is out for him- or herself. A love problem will crop up; avoid arguing. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You really need to get away and have some fun. Don't let comments made or gossip being spread, get to you. An old love may want back into your world. Think twice. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Concentrate on making your place more comfortable and a better place to entertain your friends. A kind gesture on someone's part will make you realize you're not alone and you have support for a project you want to start. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Emotional tugging will wear you thin. You must make up your mind so you can get rid of anyone or anything causing you grief. An opportunity will come your way once you put an end to old conditions. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Giving will do way more for you today than receiving. Make it a point to find where your services will best help and offer all you can. Strive for perfection and to be a Good Samaritan. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): A decision you make will surprise others and position you positively for what's to come. Network at events and you will be inspired to continue in a direction in which you can excel. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Keep things cost efficient. Don't let anyone talk you into doing things you question. Love will be difficult. You can talk your way around things but eventually you will have to face whatever happens. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't give in to someone looking for an argument. Focus on your own projects and work alone and you will accomplish the most by the end of the day. Put what's important to you first. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Take a look at what someone has to offer you and you may decide to make a few changes in your current direction. As long as you can put in your time and not your cash, you will be safe in moving forward. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You may have to grasp something that you weren't counting on. Don't let your emotions lead you astray. There is money heading your way from a source you least expect. Keep things in perspective. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You'll be torn between what you want to do and what you should do. Ask someone you trust and admire for advice. Talks with loved ones will help you resolve issues that have been causing problems for some time. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Parlay your love into something beautiful for someone you think the world of and you will leave a lasting impression. Make a couple of changes around home, adding to your comfort and making a difference to the attitudes of those living with you. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are curious and question everything and everyone. You are inventive and imaginative, pursuing what you want and refusing to admit defeat.

Eugenia's Web sites: **astroadvice.com** *for fun,* **eugenialast.com** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

6		7	5		8	2		4
9					2			7
2		6		3				1
7				4		5		9
1			9					3
8		5	4		1	7		6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	1	8	3	5	9	7	4	2
7	3	9	4	2	8	1	5	6
5	2	4	6	1	7	3	9	8
8	6	1	2	4	5	9	3	7
9	5	2	8	7	3	6	1	4
4	7	3	9	6	1	8	2	5
2	8	6	1	3	4	5	7	9
1	9	5	7	8	2	4	6	3
3	4	7	5	9	6	2	8	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/18

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FREQUENT FLYER AWARDS **Solution: 6 letters**

R	S	G	T	C	S	S	E	N	I	S	U	B	R	V
S	E	G	N	U	O	L	Y	A	S	N	I	B	A	C
D	N	P	R	I	O	L	L	A	R	P	A	L	T	R
O	I	O	R	O	T	D	L	O	L	N	U	L	E	E
M	L	S	I	E	C	C	L	E	R	E	I	P	P	D
E	R	T	C	T	S	E	E	O	C	N	D	N	O	I
S	I	I	R	O	A	E	R	N	S	T	E	S	G	T
T	A	F	S	E	U	C	N	I	N	D	A	T	E	S
I	R	E	L	E	B	N	A	T	E	O	R	N	E	C
C	O	N	F	I	R	M	T	V	A	S	C	I	R	H
S	U	E	E	D	G	V	E	S	E	T	F	O	I	E
M	T	B	O	O	K	H	I	M	(F)	U	I	P	P	D
R	E	A	A	G	E	N	T	C	(E)	E	M	V	X	U
E	S	T	E	K	C	I	T	L	(E)	T	O	H	E	L
T	R	A	N	S	F	E	R	S	E	L	E	C	T	E

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Yesterday's Answer: Exfoliate

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• 5-Liner	$35
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1st position	**$13.00**
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Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

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- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Minaya: Losses, speculation led to Randolph firing

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Once he decided to fire Willie Randolph, New York Mets general manager Omar Minaya caught a flight to the West Coast, went to the team hotel and waited to deliver the news in person. "Eye to eye," Minaya said Tuesday. "It was done quick." Even if it seemed to take forever.

The late-night hit came as chants of "Fire Willie!" grew louder at Shea Stadium and on New York's sports talk radio stations. Yet when Minaya did just that, the news shocked most everyone—fans, media and apparently even Randolph.

"I'm really stunned by it," the ex-manager said around noon Tuesday. "I was surprised by it."

Bench coach Jerry Manuel, a former AL Manager of the Year for the Chicago White Sox, will manage the Mets for the rest of the year.

Randolph became the first manager in the majors to be fired this season, the move announced in an e-mail at 12:14 a.m. PDT Tuesday. He was dismissed with the Mets below .500, still wobbling from last year's colossal collapse and speculation about his job status growing every day.

The tension went on "far too long," Minaya said. "It was not fair to the team, it was not fair to Willie Randolph, it was not fair to the organization."

Pitching coach Rick Peterson and first base coach Tom Nieto also were fired.

Minaya said he made the decision Monday—a day after the Mets traveled to California after a doubleheader split at home with Texas—and stressed it was his alone. He met with Randolph after that night's 9-6 win over the Los Angeles Angels left the Mets at 34-35.

AP

New York Mets interim manager Jerry Manuel, left, and general manager Omar Minaya talk during a news conference before the Mets' baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels, in Anaheim, Calif, Tuesday, June 17, 2008.

"I think he was resigned to it," Minaya said. "When all is said and done, I think he was relieved."

Minaya said it would have been disrespectful to fire a manager while he was still in uniform. Instead, Minaya said he waited to talk to Randolph away from the ballpark.

"11 p.m. at night, after a game ... standard procedure in letting a manager go in this game," he said.

Mets star Carlos Beltran said he didn't know the move was coming when he left the park Monday night.

"Not really because after winning yesterday's ballgame, that's the last thing you have in mind. You say, `Well, we're rolling. We might get back on track and we're going to start playing better,'" he said.

"It is a distraction every day. You try to keep away from the papers, but they're always in the clubhouse and you read and they're always talking about firing Willie, firing Willie," he said.

Closer Billy Wagner contributed to the Mets' recent trouble, blowing multirun leads in three straight appearances last week.

"It definitely is one less thing you have to think about. It's unfortunate. He wasn't the cause of why we were playing bad or inconsistent. That was all on us," he said.

Many Mets fans were startled to wake up and learn Randolph had been fired. The move also left many media members in New York wondering why the dismissal came in the dead of night—New York time, anyhow.

There was no doubt, however, that the team with a $138 million payroll was not getting the job done.

"Is it Willie only? No, it's us," Minaya said. "I can't replace 25 players. And the players care. The players give 100 percent.

"It just wasn't working. I think the players were pressing."

Whether they admitted it or not, it was clear last year's collapse was still haunting them.

Leading the NL East by seven games on Sept. 12, the Mets lost 12 of their last 17 and missed the playoffs as Philadelphia rallied to win the division title.

"That was a catastrophic demise of a chance to go on and play in a championship series," Manuel said.

"Right now, I think we are somewhat underperforming," he said. "I think we need to freshen up our everyday players."

The 54-year-old takes over a squad that still has playoff aspirations.

Quiet and confident, Manuel managed the White Sox from 1998-2003, winning AL Manager of the Year in 2000 after guiding his club to the league's best record (95-67).

Helping him will be Ken Oberkfell, the club's manager at Triple-A New Orleans, and Dan Warthen, pitching coach for the Zephyrs. Luis Aguayo, a Mets field coordinator, also will join the major league staff.

Beyond this season remains to be seen.

Former Mets star Gary Carter, who managed in their minor league system, was interested. John Franco, very popular in his days as the closer, might also be a candidate to manage.

The Mets have yet to find their groove this year, despite the addition of Johan Santana. Injuries to Pedro Martinez, Moises Alou and Ryan Church and another down year by Carlos Delgado didn't help.

Hired by Minaya for the 2005 season, Randolph led the Mets to within one win of the 2006 World Series.

A preseason favorite to win the NL pennant this season, the Mets had won two in a row when Randolph was dismissed. He was set to earn $2 million this season and is owed $2.25 million in 2009, when the Mets move into new Citi Field.

Giambi's 2 homers help Pettitte and Yankees beat Padres for 5th straight win

NEW YORK (AP)—Jason Giambi homered twice and Andy Pettitte looked particularly sharp in an easy outing as the New York Yankees beat the sloppy San Diego Padres 8-0 Tuesday to match a season high with their fifth straight victory.

Alex Rodriguez also connected off an ineffective Randy Wolf (5-5) for the surging Yankees (38-33), who have won 10 of 13 to move a season-best five games above .500. New York has outscored its opponents 35-6 during the five-game winning streak.

Including a 13-0 whitewash Sunday at Houston, the Yankees have tossed consecutive shutouts for the first time since May 7-8, 2005, against Oakland.

Pettitte (7-5) tied a season high with nine strikeouts in seven innings, improving to 4-0 in his past six starts.

Red Sox 3, Phillies 0

At Philadelphia, Jon Lester struck out five over seven shutout innings and Coco Crisp homered to lead Boston over Philadelphia.

Lester (6-3) never got into any serious trouble and won his third straight start. He gave up six hits and walked only one.

Crisp gave him all the offense he needed with a two-run homer in the second inning off Jamie Moyer (7-4). Julio Lugo added an RBI double in the sixth.

Twins 2, Nationals 1

At Minneapolis, Livan Hernandez finally found a way to keep opposing hitters off base, earning his first victory in over a month in Minnesota's win over the Nationals.

Hernandez (7-4), who is on pace to become the first pitcher since Atlanta's Phil Niekro in 1979 to allow more than 300 hits in a season, allowed one run on just five hits in seven efficient innings. He needed just 77 pitches for his first win since May 12.

Justin Morneau hit a two-run homer in the sixth inning and Joe Mauer went 2-for-3 with a double for the Twins.

Dodgers 3, Reds 1

At Cincinnati, right-hander Chad Billingsley took a shutout into the seventh inning and Los Angeles held on for a victory over Cincinnati that ended a five-game losing streak.

Billingsley (5-7) provided a huge boost on an otherwise ominous day for the Dodgers' rotation. Brad Penny went on the 15-day disabled list with a sore shoulder, and Hiroki Kuroda was sent back to Los Angeles for tests on his sore shoulder.

Orioles 6, Astros 5

At Baltimore, Melvin Mora hit a two-run double in the eighth inning to cap yet another improbable rally by Baltimore and doom the sinking Houston to its sixth straight defeat.

A home run by Nick Markakis got the Orioles to 5-4 in the seventh before the Orioles went ahead in the eighth. After Adam Jones hit a leadoff single off Doug Brocail (2-2) and Brian Roberts drew a one-out walk, Jose Valverde struck out Markakis before Mora hit a 3-2 pitch into the gap in right-center.

Brewers 7, Blue Jays 0

At Milwaukee, Manny Parra scattered four hits in seven scoreless innings and Ryan Braun hit two of Milwaukee's five homers, lifting the Brewers over the Blue Jays.

Prince Fielder, Russell Branyan and even Craig Counsell homered for Milwaukee, which improved to 2-2 on the current nine-game homestand and won its eighth straight at home against Toronto even though the last game came in 1997.

Royals 2, Cardinals 1

At St. Louis, Mike Aviles homered to snap an eighth-inning tie and Kyle Davies worked seven sharp innings in Kansas City's victory over the Cardinals.

David DeJesus contributed his sixth RBI in two games for the Royals, 29-42 overall but a robust 5-2 in interleague play while taking two of three from Florida and Arizona.

Rays 3, Cubs 2

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Cliff Floyd and Evan Longoria hit solo home runs, helping Tampa Bay spoil Lou Piniella's return to Tropicana Field with a victory over Atlanta.

Floyd's shot to right field off Ryan Dempster traveled an estimated 429 feet (131 meters). Longoria led off the sixth with his 11th of the season, snapping a 1-all tie against Neal Cotts (0-1).

Rangers 7, Braves 5

At Arlington, Texas, Josh Hamilton put Texas ahead to stay with his American League-best 19th homer and Milton Bradley added a two-run single on which he got hurt in Texas' victory over Atlanta.

Hamilton's towering 412-foot (126-meter) solo shot into the second deck of right-field seats came in the first off Tim Hudson (7-5), who is winless his last five starts.

White Sox 16, Pirates 5

At Chicago, Jermaine Dye, Joe Crede, Orlando Cabrera and Jim Thome homered as the White Sox registered season highs in runs and hits to rout Pittsburgh.

Thome's homer, a three-run shot to cap a five-run seventh, was the 521st of his career, tying him with Willie McCovey and Ted Williams for 16th on the career list.

Rockies 10, Indians 2

At Denver, Greg Reynolds pitched six strong innings and led Colorado's season-high 17-hit attack by going 2-for-3 with a run scored as the Rockies routed Cleveland.

Jeff Baker hit an inside-the-park home run, Brad Hawpe also homered and Matt Holliday went 3-for-5 with two RBIs for Colorado, which has won three of its last four.

Reynolds (2-4) allowed one run on five hits and struck out four to earn his second win in his last three starts.

Athletics 15, Diamondbacks 1

At Phoenix, Mark Ellis hit two home runs to lead a six-homer barrage as the Athletics routed Brandon Webb and the Diamondbacks.

Eric Chavez, Kurt Suzuki, Bobby Crosby and Rajai Davis also homered for Oakland, which won its fourth straight.

Mariners 5, Marlins 4

At Seattle, Felix Hernandez was overpowering for the first five innings, then scrambled to hold his lead, and Seattle snapped an eight-game home losing streak with a win over Florida.

Between Dan Uggla's 20th homer of the season with one-out in the second and Matt Treanor's bloop single leading off the sixth, Hernandez retired 11 straight, seven by strike out. He struck out six consecutive batters at one point, including the side in the fourth on the minimum nine pitches.

Angels 6, Mets 1

At Anaheim, California, John Lackey scattered six hits over seven-plus innings to lead the Angels to a victory that spoiled Jerry Manuel's debut as New York Mets manager.

Manuel was promoted from bench coach after Willie Randolph was fired a night earlier.

In a matchup of staff aces, Lackey (4-1) outpitched Johan Santana (7-5). The Angels' right-hander, whose 2008 debut was delayed by a strained biceps, shut out the Mets after giving up a run in the first inning.

Tigers 5, Giants 1

At San Francisco, Kenny Rogers pitched seven strong innings and Marcus Thames homered in his fifth straight game to help Detroit beat San Francisco.

Thames matched the franchise record for consecutive games with a homer and Edgar Renteria recorded his 2,000th career hit, beating out an infield single in the sixth, as Detroit ended a four-game road losing streak.

Rogers (5-4) won in his 27th different ballpark and improved to 27-4 alltime against the Giants.

TO missing as Cowboys start mandatory 3-day camp

IRVING, Texas (AP)—Terrell Owens has been excused from the Dallas Cowboys' mandatory offseason minicamp this week while dealing with a personal family matter.

Owens was at the Valley Ranch facility Tuesday morning. But he left to catch a flight before the first of five scheduled practices during the three-day minicamp.

"He didn't want to go into it, and I really don't want to either," Phillips said. "It's a family matter and just leave it at that. It's not anything more than that."

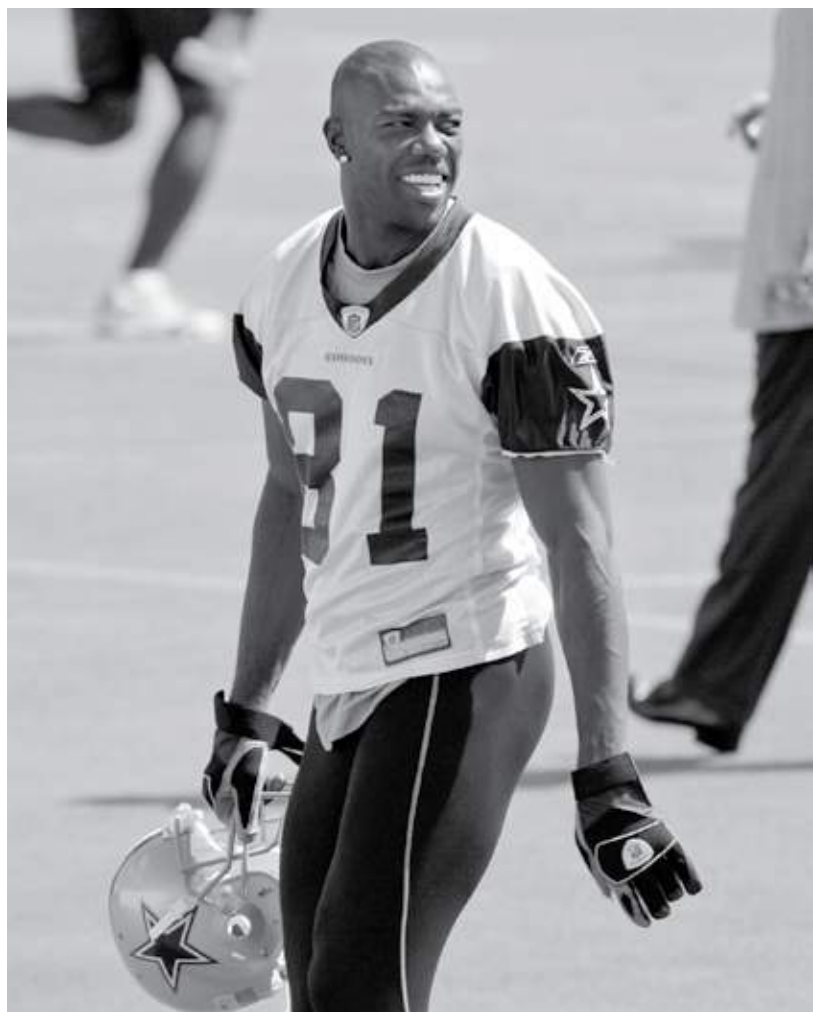
The only players other than Owens not on the field Tuesday were free safety Ken Hamlin and receiver Terry Glenn, both absent because of unresolved contract issues that have kept them from taking part in offseason drills.

Owens participated in optional workouts the past four weeks. Heading into the final year of his contract, the 34-year-old receiver two weeks ago signed a three-year extension worth around $27 million through the 2011 season.

"Him missing time certainly is not a big deal," Phillips said. "Especially a veteran player that knows how to play and do the things and has worked as he has this offseason."

Phillips said Owens talked to him Monday, but the coach wouldn't elaborate on that conversation or where T.O. was going. Cowboys owner Jerry Jones also refused to go into detail.

"It was a family matter and certainly with all the hard work he has put in out here during the offseason it is not an issue with me," Jones said.



AP

In this June 11, 2008 file photo, Dallas Cowboys football player Terrell Owens participates in drills at the NFL football team's minicamp at the Cowboys' training facility in Irving, Texas.

"It wasn't anything that you guys would go crazy about," quarterback Tony Romo said. "He's worked his butt off. I don't know that (being absent all week) would be a big deal."

Messages left for Owens' agent, Drew Rosenhaus, weren't returned.

While Owens was excused, Glenn has refused to agree to a $500,000 injury waiver, the amount the Cowboys want to give him instead of his scheduled $1.74 million base salary this season if he reinjures his right knee and is unable to play again.

"I haven't talked to Terry at all," Jones said. "We'll just see what happens between now and training camp."

Glenn made $5 million last season, when he missed the first 15 games after two operations on his right knee. He didn't have a catch in the regular season finale, then caught two passes for 30 yards in the Cowboys' playoff loss to the New York Giants.

Jones said he had an agreement with Glenn before the receiver fired his agent. Jones said they haven't spoken since.

"I'm not talking about it because I don't have an answer for it at all, and I'm certainly not going to sit here and negotiate," Jones said. "He has had an agent before and we worked things out, and then it didn't work out, so we will see where we go."

Hamlin hasn't signed a $4.4 million tender since the Cowboys designated him as their franchise player in February. Hamlin made his first Pro Bowl last season after he had 62 tackles and five interceptions.

Jones aid he wasn't worried about Hamlin, who is locked up through the 2008 season.

"I'm not at all," Jones said. "That's a lot of money. And he'll play."

The absence of Owens and Glenn is providing an opportunity for Sam Hurd, Miles Austin and other young receivers to get extra snaps and more time working with Romo in practice. Phillips said Owens wouldn't have gotten "as many reps anyway in the minicamp" in an effort to take care of T.O.

Owens led the NFL with 13 touchdown catches in 2006 and had an NFC-best 15 more last year for a two-year total that is tops in the league. He has 166 catches for 2,535 yards in his two seasons with the Cowboys.

T.O. is ninth on the career receptions list with 882, 10th in receiving yards with 13,070 and third in touchdowns with 129—the most among active players, and trailing only Jerry Rice (197) and Cris Carter (130).

Specter says he won't call for hearings on Spygate

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Arlen Specter said he won't call for congressional hearings on the NFL's investigation of the Spygate scandal after previously threatening to do so.

Specter's office confirmed Tuesday his comments a day earlier to the Philadelphia Daily News editorial board. Specter, the ranking Republican on the Judiciary Committee, had written in a Senate floor statement earlier this month that "I believe the NFL should step forward and embrace an independent inquiry."

"If the NFL continues to leave a vacuum," he added, "Congress may be tempted to fill it."

No independent inquiry has been announced; NFL commissioner Roger Goodell has indicated that he considers the investigation closed. But Specter said no hearings were forthcoming.

"I haven't pulled back. There's not much more I can do at this point," the senator said Monday, according to his office. "We've exposed a lot. ... But the public attention span is so limited. I'm not going to call for hearings because the mood is not right and we've got too many other bigger problems to deal with."

Specter did raise the issue of whether the NFL and other leagues, the beneficiaries of antitrust exemptions, should receive public funding for building stadiums. And he told the editorial board that he wasn't interested in former NBA referee Tim Donaghy's claims that playoff games were rigged.

Coach K: US Olympic team will be announced Monday

DURHAM, N.C. (AP)—Calling it "the toughest decision" facing USA Basketball since it began using professional players, U.S. Olympic team coach Mike Krzyzewski said the 12-man roster for this summer's Beijing Games will be released Monday.

Krzyzewski, Duke's Hall of Fame coach, said the roster will be announced during a news conference in Chicago.

"The pool of players that we have have all made commitments and have given time and effort," Krzyzewski said Tuesday during his annual summer news conference in Durham. "Really we have more people qualified for those 12 spots than we can take, so that's what makes it tough. There will be people we've coached, either last summer or the summer before, who will not be on this team."

Earlier this month, USA Basketball managing director Jerry Colangelo said the U.S. would pick its squad without a tryout. There are more than 30 players in the national team program, but he said officials are down to about 14 names.

The deadline to submit the roster is July 1. The U.S. team will go to Las Vegas to train in mid-July and play an exhibition against Canada before opening the Beijing Games against the host Chinese on Aug. 10.

Last year, the U.S. team started Kobe Bryant, LeBron James, Carmelo Anthony, Jason Kidd and Dwight Howard en route to an unbeaten showing in an Olympic qualifying tournament. The roster also included Amare Stoudemire, Chauncey Billups, Deron Williams, Michael Redd, Tayshaun Prince, Tyson Chandler and Mike Miller.

"We understand the level of pressure that's involved in this and to me the pressure can be looked at in two different ways: it can inhibit you or it can excite you," Krzyzewski said of expectations to win the gold medal. "My feeling is it will excite our group. They want that pressure. The most foolish thing you can do is ... be arrogant and just say it's going to happen. To me, we have to show the respect of preparation to do it."

Krzyzewski said USA Basketball has talked with players to make sure they don't have any family or health issues that would prevent them from being committed to the team. He said they also have talked with potential choices about how their roles might change, going as far to tell some, "You may be the 12th man. You may not be a starter. Are you able to handle that?"

Their responses, he said, have typically been, "Whatever you want."

"This team has a chance to be incredibly unique," he said. "How it's been put together has shown a tremendous amount of respect for worldwide basketball. We've said, 'It's the world's game, not the U.S.'s game.'"

Police: Cash, jewelry taken from Walker in robbery

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Oakland Raiders wide receiver Javon Walker remained hospitalized with a concussion and a battered face Tuesday, one day after he was beaten, robbed and left unconscious on a Las Vegas street after a night of partying.

Police said a large amount of cash and some jewelry were taken from Walker, who suffered "a moderate concussion and significant injuries to his face."

Police Lt. Clinton Nichols said detectives are retracing Walker's activities in the hours before he was found injured Monday morning on a street off the Las Vegas Strip.

"That's one of the first things we do, backtrack what he did and where he stayed," Nichols said, adding that the investigation was still in the early stages. "We knew there was a large amount of cash taken, and some jewelry."

According to reports published Tuesday in the Las Vegas Review-Journal, Walker visited a nightclub, Tryst, at the Wynn Las Vegas resort on Saturday night. He spent Sunday night at another club, Body English at the Hard Rock hotel-casino, before leaving about 3:30 a.m. Monday, according to casino spokeswoman Dorian Cantrell.

Cantrell said there were no reports of a disturbance at the club.

Nichols said detectives spoke briefly with Walker on Monday and planned a second interview Tuesday evening at Sunrise Hospital and Medical Center.

A Raiders spokesman said the team was in the process of gathering information and had no further comment.

On Monday, police Officer Bill Cassell said in a statement that Walker was taken to a hospital with "significant injuries" and was in fair condition.

Walker, 29, signed a six-year, $55 million deal with the Raiders after being released by the Denver Broncos in February.

Walker sought a fresh start after Broncos teammate Darrent Williams died in his arms in the back of a limousine on Jan. 1, 2006 in downtown Denver.

In a 2007 "Real Sports" interview, Walker said then teammate Brandon Marshall and his cousin exchanged heated words with two men who later confronted Williams and his group after taking offense when Marshall sprayed them with champagne.

The drive-by shooting remains unsolved.

Walker was a first-round draft pick by the Green Bay Packers in 2001 and had a breakout season in 2004 with 89 catches for 1,382 yards and 12 touchdowns.

He tore a ligament in his right knee the next season and played only one game.

He was traded to Denver in 2006 and bounced back with 69 catches for 1,084 yards and eight touchdowns.

Walker injured his right knee for the second time in his career last season and was limited to eight games and 26 catches in 2007.

AP

In this May 10, 2006 file photo, Denver Broncos wide receiver Javon Walker jokes with reporters during a news conference at the team's headquarters in Denver.

NMBF Youth Summer Clinic set

Northern Marianas Badminton Federation will conduct a free badminton clinic for the youth this summer at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The fastest growing net sport in the CNMI is inviting enthusiasts from ages seven to 18 to learn the proper way of playing badminton. The clinic will be held from June 23 to July 11, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Equipment and refreshments will be provided by NMBF.

For more information, contact NMBF community project and development head Edwin Montoya at 285-2046, NMBF president Marconi Calindas at 287-8445, or membership committee head Hapi Gabriel at 287-4274. ***(Mark Rabago)***

NOT

From Page 28

making sure there was always help behind if Bryant did try to get to the basket.

And there was no one else to pick up the slack. Lamar Odom didn't have a field goal until the fourth quarter, when the Lakers were already down by 29 points. Pau Gasol took only seven shots and finished with 11 points—and he was their second-leading scorer until deep in the fourth quarter, when Odom went to work against the reserves who played the last few minutes while Kevin Garnett, Paul Pierce and Ray Allen were busy celebrating on the sideline.

With the Lakers' season on the line and no other choice, Phil Jackson left Bryant on the floor for the entire second quarter, instead of his usual break early in the period. Maybe the rest would have been a better idea.

Bryant missed all four shots and committed two turnovers in the period, when the game was decided after Boston outscored Los Angeles 34-15. And when he desperately needed his teammates to pick him up, the rest of the Lakers combined for only three field goals in the period, and the Celtics had a commanding 58-35 bulge by the time it was over.

When he tried to carry them back in the third quarter, the Celtics were ready for him. Rajon Rondo picked him clean and Bryant had to race back as the Lakers tried to catch and foul the point guard, with Bryant tumbling on top of Rondo just a few feet from Patriots coach Bill Belichick.

Even Belichick, one of the top defensive minds in his sport, couldn't have cooked up a scheme as good as the Celtics'.

Later, a pretty spin move got Bryant close to the basket, but P.J. Brown swatted his shot off the backboard to start a fast break the other way.

Bryant was having his way early, scoring 11 points in the first quarter. By then it was already clear that a big night from the league's MVP would be their only chance: At one point in the first half, when it was still a game, Bryant had 12 points. The rest of the Lakers had combined for 12.

It was the kind of inept performance from the supporting cast that Bryant saw too often last season, leading him to rip team management last summer for not getting him enough help, then declare he wanted to be traded.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE
East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	45	29	.608	–
Tampa Bay	41	29	.586	2
New York	38	33	.535	5 1/2
Baltimore	35	34	.507	7 1/2
Toronto	35	37	.486	9

Central Division

Chicago	39	31	.557	–
Minnesota	35	36	.493	4 1/2
Cleveland	33	38	.465	6 1/2
Detroit	33	38	.465	6 1/2
Kansas City	29	42	.408	10 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	43	29	.597	–
Oakland	39	31	.557	3
Texas	36	36	.500	7
Seattle	25	46	.352	17 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE
East Division

Philadelphia	42	31	.575	–
Florida	38	33	.535	3
Atlanta	35	37	.486	6 1/2
New York	34	36	.486	6 1/2
Washington	29	43	.403	12 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	42	30	.583	3 1/2
Milwaukee	37	33	.529	7 1/2
Pittsburgh	34	37	.479	11
Houston	33	38	.465	12
Cincinnati	33	39	.458	12 1/2

West Division

Arizona	37	34	.521	–
Los Angeles	32	38	.457	4 1/2
San Diego	31	41	.431	6 1/2
San Francisco	31	41	.431	6 1/2
Colorado	29	42	.408	8

Yesterday's Games

N.Y. Yankees 8, San Diego 0
Boston 3, Philadelphia 0
Baltimore 6, Houston 5
Tampa Bay 3, Chicago Cubs 2
Milwaukee 7, Toronto 0
Texas 7, Atlanta 5
Minnesota 2, Washington 1
Chicago White Sox 16, Pittsburgh 5
Kansas City 2, St. Louis 1
Colorado 10, Cleveland 2
Oakland 15, Arizona 1
L.A. Angels 6, N.Y. Mets 1
Seattle 5, Florida 4
Detroit 5, San Francisco 1

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

BSML STANDINGS

Rock Steady	13	0
Tanapag Falcons	9	4
Ford Rangers	8	4
Koreans Dreams	6	7
San Roque D9ers	5	7
Komoro	4	8
Team Kabur	2	10
O'Conner Tigers	1	11

CELTICS

From Page 28

ton's first title since the passing of Auerbach, whose signature victory cigar was the only thing missing on this night. Even Auerbach, who died in 2006, got some satisfaction. Led by Rivers, Auerbach's beloved team denied Lakers coach Phil Jackson from overtaking him with a 10th championship.

A perfect ending: a 17th title on the 17th of June.

The Boston-Los Angeles rivalry, nothing more than black-and-white footage from the 60s and TV highlights of players wearing short shorts in the 80s to young hoops fans, remains tilted toward the Atlantic Ocean. The Celtics are 9-2 against the Lakers in the finals.

They missed their first crack at closing out the series in Game 5, but didn't miss on their second swing, running the Lakers out of their gym.

Bryant, the regular season MVP, finished with 22 points.

Garnett and Allen were All-Stars in other cities, stuck in Minnesota and Seattle, respectively, on teams going nowhere. But brought together in trades last summer by Celtics general manager Danny Ainge, a member of the '86 Celtics champions, they joined Pierce and formed an unbreakable bond, a trio as tight as the club's lucky shamrock logo.

With Garnett scoring 17 points and Pierce adding 10, Boston built a 23-point halftime lead, and unlike Game 2 when they let the Lakers trim a 24-point lead to two in the fourth quarter before recovering, the Celtics kept coming in waves.

They pushed their lead to 31 in the third quarter, and with Boston still up by 29 after three quarters, plastic sheets started going up in the Celtics' locker room in preparation for a champagne celebration.

Bryant started 4-of-5 from the field, but he missed seven shots in a row and went only 7-of-22, capping a forgettable finals. Everywhere he went, L.A.'s No. 24 ran smack into a wall of Boston defense as high as the Green Monster a few miles away at Fenway Park.

"Defense," Rivers said before the game. "Is what we do."

In the second half, Celtics fans chanted "You're not (Michael) Jordan" at Bryant, who will have to wait for his fourth title and first without former teammate Shaquille O'Neal. The Lakers, who stole Pau Gasol away from Memphis in a mid-season trade to help Bryant, will have the all summer to think about what went wrong.

No team had to work harder for a championship than these Celtics, who were playing in their record 26th postseason game. They were pushed to seven games in the first round by Atlanta, another seven by Cleveland and then took care of Detroit in six to win the Eastern Conference title.

They entered Game 6 of the finals slowed by injuries as Pierce, Kendrick Perkins (shoulder) and Rajon Rondo (ankle) were less than 100 percent. There was also uncertainty surrounding Allen, who stayed behind in Los Angeles following Game 5 after his youngest son became ill.

But just as they had while winning 66 games during the regular season, the Celtics got plenty of help from their bench as P.J. Brown, James Posey, Leon Powe and rookie Glen "Big Baby" Davis came in and contributed.

It was a group effort by this gang in green, which bonded behind Rivers, who borrowed an African word ubuntu (pronounced Ooh-BOON-too) and roughly means "I am, because we are" in English, as the Celtics' unifying team motto.

The Celtics gave the Lakers a 12-minute crash course of ubuntu in the second quarter.

Boston outscored Los Angeles 34-19, getting 11 field goals on 11 assists while holding Bryant to three points, all on free throws. The Celtics toyed with the Lakers, outworking the Western Conference's best inside and out and showing the same kind of heart that made Boston the center of pro basketball's universe in the '60s.

House and Posey made 3-pointers to put the Celtics ahead by 12 points and baskets by Pierce, Garnett and Rondo put Boston ahead by 18.

In the final minute, Garnett floated in the lane, banked in a one-handed runner and was fouled. His free throw made it 56-35, and after Perkins scored, the Celtics ran to the locker room leading by 23.

On his way off the floor, Garnett screamed, "That's that."

And so it was.

The Celtics didn't get back to Boston until late Monday night. They sat on the runway at LAX for nearly four hours, a delay Rivers joked may have been caused by some gremlins under orders from Lakers GM Mitch Kupchak and Jackson.

Allen stayed behind to be with his youngest son, who had taken ill during Game 5 in Los Angeles and had to be hospitalized. Allen didn't arrive until Tuesday, taking an early morning flight from the West Coast and missing the team's shootaround.

That was one red eye, he got another in the first quarter when he got poked in the left eye by Lamar Odom while scoring on a layup. Allen doubled over in pain and was taken to the locker room. By the time he came back to the bench—much like Pierce did from a knee injury in Game 1—the Celtics were up comfortably ahead and on their way to restoring their glory.

BIG 3

From Page 28

in 1986. Danny Ainge was the point guard for that team and the general manager for the one that won 24 games last year and 66 this season—the biggest turnaround in NBA history.

"Where we came from a year ago, where I was at, to be here today celebrating with my teammates, putting a stamp on what a great year it was," Pierce told the jubilant fans after accepting the MVP trophy. "Everybody stuck with me throughout all the hard times. I know we didn't have a lot of great years, but you guys stuck with me, and now we bring home a championship to you."

The Celtics joined the 1975 Golden State Warriors and the '77 Trail Blazers as the only teams to win it all a year after missing the playoffs.

And it's not hard to see how they did it.

Last year's team featured Pierce and a passel of young players who showed promise individually but little sign of snapping the longest championship drought in franchise history. After their legendary luck deserted them in the lottery, leaving them with a worst-case fifth pick in a two-star draft, Ainge wheeled the first-rounder for Allen.

That was enough to convince Garnett to accept a trade and sign an extension, allowing Ainge to cobble together an unprecedented 7-for-1 deal for the final piece in the new Big Three.

"We sacrificed so much of what we did throughout our careers to get to this point because we've done everything we've been able to do individually, won all type of awards, but never made it to the mountaintop," Pierce said. "It's like a breath of fresh air."

With the best record in the NBA during the regular season, the Celtics earned home court for the playoffs—and they needed it. They won all four games at home in the first two rounds to reach the Eastern Conference finals, then dispatched Detroit in six games.

"It seems like everything has worked out all year," Allen said. "We respect each other, and we're here sitting on championship 17."

But not without a few bumps for the Big Three in the finals.

Pierce was carried off by his teammates after what turned out to be an inconsequential knee injury in Game 1. Despite a six-point, 2-for-14 stinker in his Game 3 return to his home town, he averaged 22 points, six assists and 4.5 rebounds in the finals to earn the Celtics' first finals MVP award since Larry Bird.

"It means everything," Pierce said. "I'm not living under the shadows of the other greats now. I'm able to make my own history with my time here, and this is something that I wanted to do. If I was going to be one of the best Celtics to ever play, I had to put up a banner, and today we did that."

Allen's shooting deserted him for long stretches, and before Game 5 in Los Angeles he learned that his son had been diagnosed with diabetes. He rushed to the hospital after the game, stayed with his son on Monday and flew all night to get back to Boston.

Then, in the first half, he was raked across the left eye and went to the locker room.

It didn't stop him from going 7-of-9 from 3-point range, giving him a record 22 3-pointers in the NBA finals.

"I was wondering what happened to Ray," Pierce said. "When Ray got back out there, I think it kind of fueled us. We pushed the lead up to over 20 when he came back, and it was just like, `Hey, it's about to be lights out.'"

For Garnett, the title was the one thing missing from a potential Hall of Fame career, and the finale gave him a sense of redemption after a Game 5 performance - 13 points and 14 rebounds, but some key missed free throws down the stretch - that he called "garbage."

On Tuesday, he went from garbage and helped turn it into garbage time.

All three stars came out—together—with 4:01 left in the game, and Pierce went immediately to give coach Doc Rivers an emotional embrace.

"They came in as a group, and I thought we should take them out as a group," Rivers said. "They all said 'Thank you,' and I said 'Thank you' back. Paul ... it's just so sweet. He just kept saying 'Thank you. Thank you. Thank you for sticking with me, again,' and I kept saying the same thing to him. So it was really a nice moment."

While the Celtics reserves—a big advantage for Boston in the series—continued to build on the lead, the starters yukked it up on the bench just as they did through frequent blowouts during the season.

"We had bumps along the road. There was frustration," Allen said. "But we always came back to each other as a team, and to finally win this and to prove we're the best team in the NBA this year, everything we went through was definitely worth it. We know exactly what it takes to be the best."

At the next timeout, it was Gino time: The scoreboard showed the disco-era American Bandstand clip that the Celtics have been using to celebrate victories all season. A shaggy man in a "Gino" T-shirt danced on the scoreboard, and Pierce stood up on the bench to frolic.

"We said, 'This is the reason we came here. This is the reason we got together,'" Garnett told reporters, after he had a chance to brush the green and white confetti from his bald head, cradle the trophy and bathe in champagne. "This is the reason right here."

Ol'Aces, GEC advance to Final Four

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Ol'Aces and GEC Pawnshop advanced to the semifinals of the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League's open division after subduing their respective opponents Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

In the first game, Ol'Aces buried Price Costco under an avalanche of points from the opening tip until the final buzzer to win by an eye-popping 84 points, 159-75.

Scoring machines Freddie Pelisamen and Pete Iguel led Ol'Aces in the demolition of Price Costco, exploding for 45 and 30 points, respectively.

Five other Oleai cagers finished in double figures, while Dave Sablan looked like the Lone Ranger all game long for the Wholesalers, firing 33 points in a losing cause.

In the second game, GEC Pawnshop held back repeated rallies by SMF Seabridge to win 105-94.

MARK RABAGO
GEC Pawnshop guard Mike Umali tries to dribble out of trouble against SMF Seabridge's John Jugos, right, and Sonny Lerio in their open division playoff game in the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Seabridge came out firing and led 24-22 after one, but the Pawnbrokers overtook them beginning in the second frame and didn't let go, leading 53-46 at the half and 83-69 after three quarters of play.

Forwards Koy Bernardo and Leo Itaas tried to prime Seabridge for one more comeback attempt in the final 10 minutes, but their uprising was foiled as GEC Pawnshop power forward Peter Camacho knocked down 13 of his own in the payoff period to preserve his team's lead.

Camacho led GEC with 23 points, while Manuel Ajoste and Molly Cacho added 18 and 15 markers, respectively.

Bernardo and sharpshooter Sonny Lerio paced Seabridge in the loss, combing for 50 points.

The FMI league continues tonight with Bank of Saipan taking on GEC Pawnshop 40s in the masters division beginning at 6:30pm. It will be followed by the 8pm semis game in the open division between pennant champion Advance X-Terminators and Tasi Tours.

First Game

Ol'Aces 159 – Pelisamen 45, P. Iguel 30, Rabauliman 19, Diaz 18, L. Iguel 17, Cruz 15, Camacho 13, Rangamar 3.

Price Costco 75 – D. Sablan 33, Lauron 16, Irinaka 12, Alfonso 7, Valencia 5, J. Sablan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 36-20, 68-45, 119-63, 159-75.

Referees: Arnold Mesa and Gilbert Espinosa.

Second Game

GEC Pawnshop 105 – P. Camacho 23, Ajoste 18, Cacho 15, Palero 13, Umali 10, Wallace 9, Wesley 7, Olaitiman 6, B. Camacho 4.

SMF Seabridge 94 – Bernardo 27, Lerio 23, Itaas 17, Demegillo 6, Mortos 4, Jugos 4, Galvez 4, Manansala 3.

Scoring by quarters: 22-24, 53-46, 83-69, 105-94.

Referees: Arnold Mesa and Gilbert Espinosa.

Five NMI netters top pools

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Five CNMI junior players went undefeated in round-robin play en route to topping their pools as the 2008 North Pacific Qualifier enters its playoffs today at the Rick Ninete Tennis Center in Tamuning, Guam.

Tinian's Benjie Decena and Mayuko Arriola headlined the Commonwealth's superb performance in the first three days of the qualifier at the U.S. territory, as the two topped their respective pools in the boys and girls 18-and-under division.

Arriola topped Pool A with a 4-0 win-loss slate after being tested yesterday by Federated States of Micronesia's Alyssa Hawkins, 6-3, 6-1.

Meanwhile, the CNMI's other bet in the age group, Dina Jones, absorbed her first loss of the competition when she bowed to Pool B topnotcher Alea Dugan of Guam, 1-6, 1-6.

Theecel Minor, for her part, gave herself a chance to qualify to the 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships after winning her match against Abigail Gbewonyo

of Palau, 6-0, 6-1. The win gave her a 2-3 record and a ticket to the second round.

In the boys 18-and-under, Decena beat Russell Buenaventura, 6-4, 2-6, 6-2, to top Pool B with a 5-0 record. Buenaventura also advanced to the second round after coming away with a 3-2 slate.

Nathan Nutting bowed out of the competition with a 0-6, 0-6 loss to Alex Kalau of FSM. He finished with a 1-4 record, his only win came against Guam's Alex Park (6-2, 6-4).

In Pool A, James Camacho finished second behind Guam's Michael Tan after beating teammate Woo Suk Chang, 6-1, 6-2. He was 4-1 in round-robin play. Despite the loss, Chang advanced to playoffs with a 3-2 record.

Thea Minor continued her dominance in the girls' 13-and-under after recording her fifth win in as many games in Pool A following a 6-0, 6-1 drubbing of Amanda Hawkins of FSM.

Jeane Bracken ended her first off-island competition winless after losing to Alina Bonto of Guam, 3-6, 3-6.

In Pool B, Amy Arenovski dropped her second match of the tourney after succumbing to undefeated Shawn Adams of FSM, 3-6, 6-7 (6), 1-6.

Last Tuesday, Rafael Jones and Jake Lee secured pole position in their respective pools in the boys' 13-and-under after both went 3-0 in round-robin play, even as Dan Camacho finished second in Jones' Pool A with a 2-1 record.

St. Jude Golf Tournament this Saturday

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The 9th Annual St. Jude Golf Tournament will tee off this Saturday, June 21, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course.

A total of five flights are up for grabs in the competition—Championship, A, B, C, and Ladies Flight.

First place for each of the five categories go home with $300, second is $200, and third is $100. All winners will also receive handsome trophies courtesy of the organizing committee. Aside from the Calloway scoring low net score, the Ladies Flight will also have a lowest gross winner.

Hole-in-one challenges are also in the mix in holes No. 3 (automobile), 7 ($10,000), 12 (automobile/motorcycle), and 14 ($10,000).

Participants willing to part with their $25 can also enter skills challenge competitions like closest to the pin in holes No. 3, 7, 13, and 17, longest drive in hole No. 18, and most accurate drive in hole No. 10. Fabulous door prizes also await participants during the awards banquet.

Entry fee is $95 before Friday, June 20, and $110 on tournament day itself. Registration for the golf fundraiser starts at 6am with the event having a shotgun start at 7:30am.

Only the first 120 paid players are guaranteed slots for the tournament. For more information, call Rosiki Camacho at 287-8901, Rufin Inos at 287-7795, Stan Benavente at 483-2619, Eli Maravilla at 888-0922, and Fr. Charlie Borja at 288-0007.

Last year, Jess "Mr. Unorthodox" Wabol won the 8th St. Jude Golf Tournament's Championship Flight with a one-under 71.

Other flight winners included Alex Sablan (A Flight), junior golfer Chang Kyun Kim (B Flight) Jesus Guerrero (C Flight), Pil Sun Kim Kitami (Ladies Flight low net), and Kwon Yong Sook (Ladies Flight low gross).

MARK RABAGO
Tanapag Falcons' Ned Norita scoots home on a San Roque D9ers error in the sixth inning of their 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League game Tuesday night at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Falcons claw D9ers, 15-4

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Tanapag Falcons followed up their big win against Ford Rangers last Friday by rolling over a listless D9ers San Roque team, 15-4, in Tuesday night's game in the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

The defending champions improved their record to 9-4, while dealing D9ers its seventh loss in 12 games all thanks to an eight-run first inning highlighted by four consecutive singles by Tanapag's top of the order and Mike Pangelinan's two RBI triple.

San Roque made it 1-8 in the next inning when John Tenorio drove in Ben Mesa, but Tanapag retaliated with two home plate crossings of its own in the third to make it 10-1.

Pangelinan then took advantage of a pass ball to make it 11-1 in the top of the fourth before D9ers chased Tanapag starting pitcher Joshua Muna from the mound with three runs in the bottom of the inning that made it 11-4.

That was about it for the D9ers' hitting, however, as Muna's replacement Hans Pua was simply lights out throwing to the plate.

In the top of the fifth, his batters gave him three more insurance runs for good measure to pad the lead to 14-4.

Then in the bottom of the fifth, Pua made it a 1-2-3 affair when he followed up Jeff Tenorio's fly ball to rightfield with consecutive strikeouts to Chris Camacho and Ton Camacho.

The defending champs then put themselves in better position to win via mercy run rule when Ned Norita scooted home on an error by D9ers shortstop Mesa to make it 15-4 in the sixth.

Pua again worked his magic from the No. 1 spot, forcing Mesa and Pat Alepuyo to fly out before striking out John Benavente to come within three strikes of recording the save for Tanapag.

After a scoreless seventh for the Falcons, Pua delivered the coup de grace to the D9ers when he served another 1-2-3 inning that saw Larry Tenorio fly out to first base, Ben Babauta to second, and Bob Lizama called out on three strikes.

Norita and Jess Taitano each had a 3-for-5 performance for the Falcons, while four other players finished at .500 or better from the plate.

Alepuyo led the D9ers in the loss, going 2-for-3, while joined by Larry and John Tenorio with an RBI each.

On Monday, Rock Steady remained unscathed, improving to 13-0 following its 14-4 victory over Korean Dreams. That followed Rock Steady's win by forfeit against the D9ers last week.

Ol'Aces, GEC advance to Final Four

Ol'Aces and GEC Pawnshop advanced to the semifinals of the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League's open division after subduing their respective opponents Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. 27

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Minaya: Losses, speculation led to Randolph firing

Once he decided to fire Willie Randolph, New York Mets general manager Omar Minaya caught a flight to the West Coast. 24

Celtics win 17th NBA title with rout of Lakers

By TOM WITHERS
AP SPORTS WRITER

On a new parquet floor below aging championship banners, the Boston Celtics won their 17th NBA title and a first one—at last—for Paul Pierce, Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen—their Big Three for a new generation.

After 22 long years, the NBA has gone green.

Carried by ear-splitting chants of "Beat L.A." early and cries of "Seven-teen" in the closing seconds by their adoring crowd, which included Boston legends Bill Russell and John Havlicek, the Celtics concluded a shocking rebound of a season with a stunning 131-92 blowout over the Los Angeles Lakers in Game 6 on Tuesday night.

With the outcome assured, Boston fans sang into the night as if they were in a pub on nearby Canal Street. They serenaded the newest champs in this city of champs, and taunted Kobe Bryant and his Lakers, who drowned in a green-and-white wave for 48 minutes.

Garnett scored 26 points with 14 rebounds, Allen scored 26 and Pierce, the finals MVP, added 17 as the Celtics, a 24-win team a year ago, wrapped up their first title since 1986.

This was total domination. The Celtics obliterated the Lakers, who were trying to become the first team to overcome a 3-1 deficit in the finals.

No way. No how. No chance.

Boston's 39-point win surpassed the NBA record for the biggest margin of victory in a championship clincher; the Celtics beat the Lakers 129-96 in Game 5 of the 1965 NBA finals.

Pierce doused Celtics coach Doc Rivers with red Gatorade. Owner Wyc Grousbeck, who named his group Banner 17 to leave no doubt about his goal, put an unlit cigar in his mouth—a tribute to Red Auerbach, the patriarch who had a hand in the franchise's first 16 titles.

Garnett dropped to the parquet and kissed the leprechaun at center court and then found Russell, the Hall of Famer who taught him the Celtic way, for a long embrace.

"I got my own. I got my own," Garnett said. "I hope we made you proud."

"You sure did," Russell said.

Rivers pulled Pierce, Garnett and Allen with 4:01 left and they shared a group hug with their coach, who was nearly run out of town last season. In the final minute, Rivers, who lost his father at the beginning of this remarkable season, was soaked by Pierce, the Celtics' captain who decided to stay when things were bad and was rewarded for his loyalty

It's was Bos-

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AP

Boston Celtics' Kevin Garnett, left, Ray Allen, center, and Paul Pierce celebrate in the locker room after winning the NBA basketball championship wit a 131-92 win over the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday, June 17, 2008, in Boston.

AP

Boston Celtics' Paul Pierce hoists the Larry O'Brien Trophy after the Celtics beat the Los Angeles Lakers 131-92 in Game 6 of the NBA basketball finals to win the 2008 championship Tuesday, June 17, 2008, in Boston. Pierce was named the finals MVP.

Big 3 leads Boston to big win in finals

By JIMMY GOLEN
AP SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON (AP)—It's the reason Paul Pierce stuck around when the losses mounted and the solution was far from clear. The reason Ray Allen was acquired as a draft-day consolation prize. And the reason Kevin Garnett agreed to leave the only pro team he'd ever known.

The Big Three has won the Big One.

The Boston Celtics rode their three All-Stars to their 17th championship on Tuesday night, blowing by the Los Angeles Lakers with a stunning show of second-quarter scoring to win 131-92 in Game 6 of the NBA finals.

Pierce, the finals MVP, had 17 points and 10 assists in the clincher, Garnett had 26 points with 14 rebounds, and Allen returned from a red-eye from the coast and a poked eye in the lane to add 26 points, including an NBA finals record-tying seven 3-pointers.

It was the first NBA title for each of them, and the first for the league's most-decorated franchise since the original Big Three of Larry Bird, Kevin McHale and Robert Parish won No. 16

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Not enough Kobe, not enough help for Lakers' MVP

By BRIAN MAHONEY
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

BOSTON (AP)—The best player was no match for the best team. Even Kobe Bryant couldn't solve Boston's suffocating defense in the NBA finals, which ended Tuesday night when the Celtics crushed the Los Angeles Lakers 131-92 in Game 6.

Bryant knew all along the Celtics were going to force someone besides him to beat them, and there was nobody else in purple and gold up for the job.

Bryant finished with 22 points, but shot only 7-of-22 from the field and was quiet after a sizzling start for the second straight game.

The Lakers needed an MVP performance from Bryant. Bryant needed help.

Neither got what they wanted—and they're not getting another championship ring this season, either.

Bryant averaged 31.9 points through the first three rounds, tops among all players in the postseason. But the Celtics limited him to 25.7 per game and 40 percent shooting, rotating a number of defenders on him and

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AP

Los Angeles Lakers forwards Pau Gasol, left, of Spain, Vladimir Radmanovic, center, of Serbia, and guard Kobe Bryant sit on the bench in the final minute of the Boston Celtics' 131-92 win over the Lakers to win the NBA basketball Championship in Boston, Tuesday, June 17, 2008.